YUKON AGRICULTURE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT

2010–2011–2012

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STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT
2010–2011–2012

Government of Yukon
Energy, Mines and Resources
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November 2013

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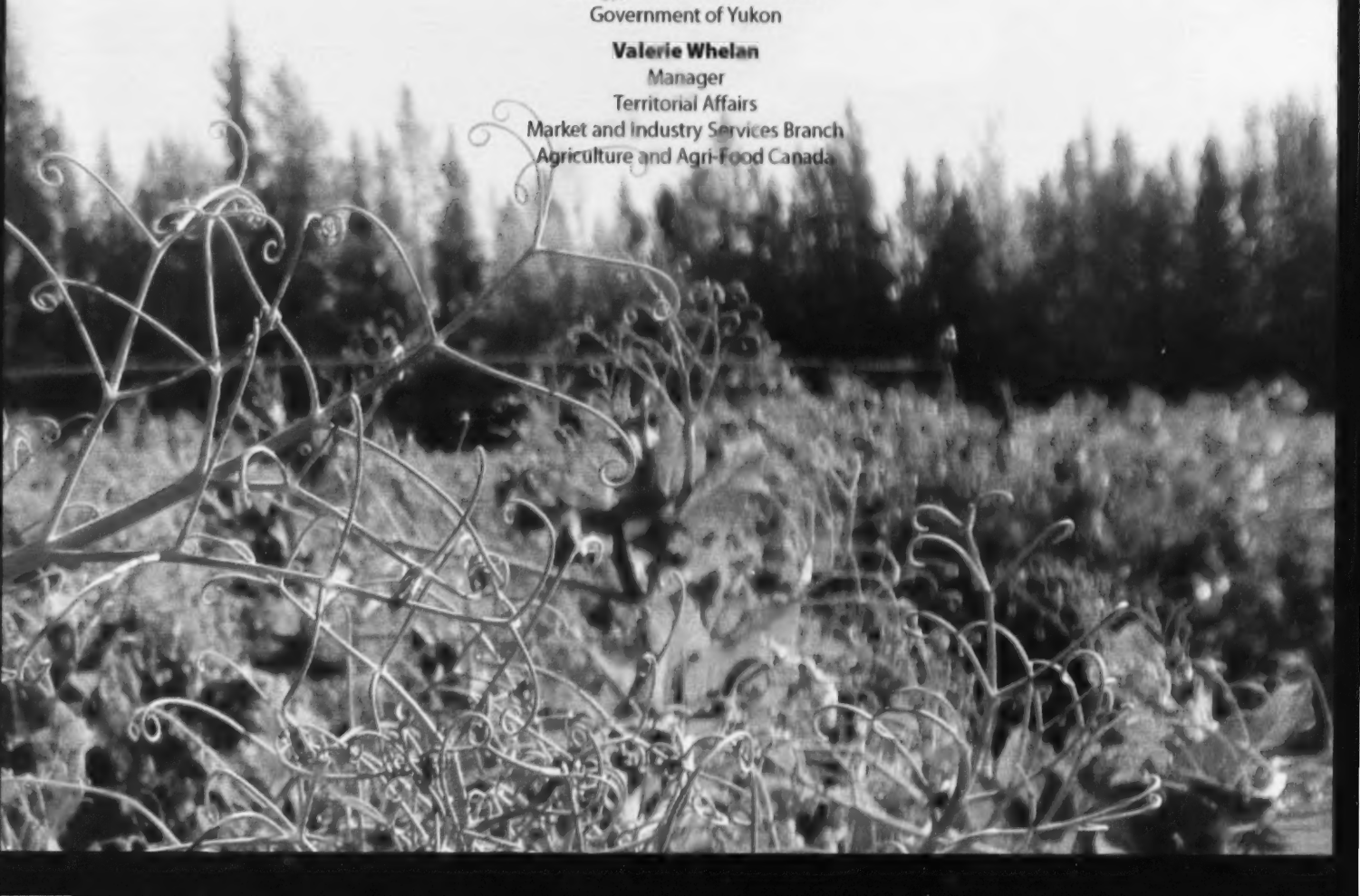

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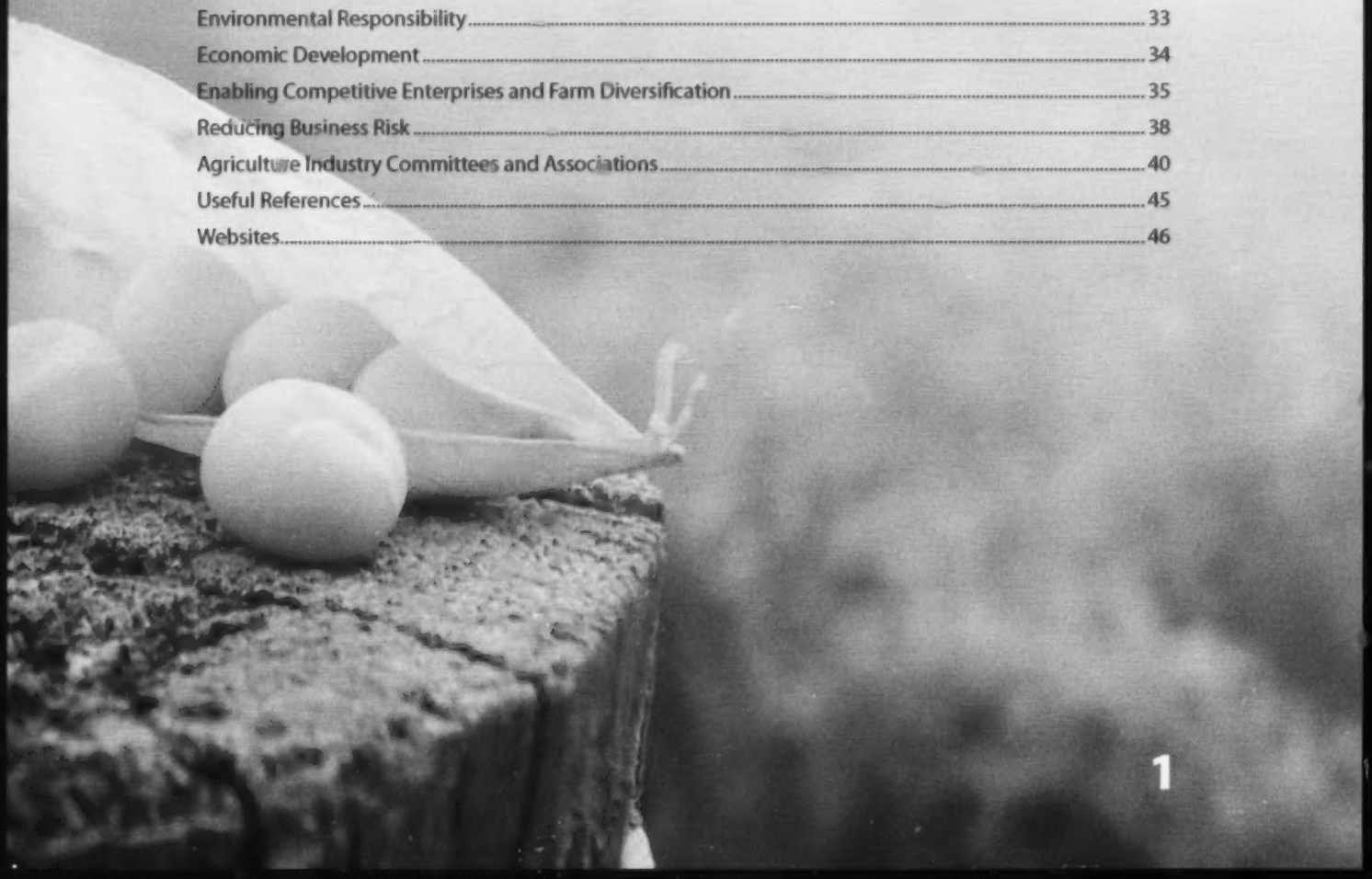


Acronyms

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
ACAAF	Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food
ADI	Agricultural Development Initiative
CAAP	Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program
CAIS	Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CYFF	Canadian Young Farmers' Forum
COG	Canadian Organic Growers
CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease
DVAI	Diversification and Value-Added Initiative
EGDD	Effective Growing Degree Days
FDBP	Farm Development Business Plan
FDP	Farm Development Plan
GE	Genetically Engineered
GF	Growing Forward
GoOFY	Growers of Organic Food Yukon
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
MDI	Market Development Initiative
PACS	Pacific Agricultural Certification Society
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium
YAA	Yukon Agricultural Association
YESAA	*Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*
YESAB	Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board
YYF	Yukon Young Farmers

Introduction

Farming in Yukon takes passion and hard work to produce high quality products. Cooperative equipment, new farming techniques and funding have helped improve the viability of our farms. Yukon agriculture reduces food imports, builds the economy and adds diversity to work options in our communities. Yukon farms continue to provide fresh, healthy products for local consumption.

Climate restrictions, low nutrient soils, high operating costs and small markets are challenges that Yukon farmers face every day. Yukon's agricultural and agri-food industry continues to be relatively small, but it is vibrant and diverse. Local farmers continue producing an abundant supply of hay, and many producers are expanding their markets by supplying fresh food products to retailers, restaurants and farmers' markets.

This report provides a description of the agricultural industry in Yukon in 2010, 2011 and 2012. It includes data provided by the *2011 Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture*. The readership for this report is anticipated to include farmers, governments, agricultural industry associations, non-profit organizations and the general public.

Industry Highlights of 2010, 2011 and 2012

Summer 2010	A pilot project to investigate the feasibility of using the mobile abattoir for poultry processing yielded information on efficiencies and best management practices.
Fall 2010	The capture of eight feral horses that had been posing problems on the Alaska Highway stirred up a wave of public opinion. Good homes were found for all eight horses.
Fall 2010	Alice Boland, Manager of the Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation gardens and greenhouse, was strongly supported by the community to become Yukon Farmer of the Year for 2010. Alice was recognised for her years of dedication to the Carmacks community gardens, which have contributed to local wellness and nutrition.
April 2010 to March 2011	Uptake in the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward program continues to grow, with a record 73 contribution agreements providing funding to industry and association projects.
Winter 2011	Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) hosts a workshop with Kent Mullinix of Kwantlen Polytechnic University on developing a sustainable Yukon food system. This leads to a YAA sponsored project to design such a system and develop an implementation plan in the fall of 2012.
Summer 2011	Local grocery stores begin prominently displaying Yukon produce to shoppers. Farmers' markets in Whitehorse and Dawson City draw record crowds of consumers supporting local production.
Fall 2011	A new Young Farmers Group holds its first meeting in Whitehorse. The Yukon group is associated with the National Young Farmers Forum, a network supporting young farmers across Canada.
Fall 2011	Jack and Lucy Vogt, operators of Vogt's Veggies at Henderson Corner near Dawson City, are voted Farmers of the Year for 2011. They were recognized for their intensive production, quality of produce, management of the environment and community contributions over the past 19 years.
Winter 2012	The Agriculture Branch facilitates a visioning workshop to help guide the development of programs to be offered under the next Growing Forward agreement.
Spring 2012	Statistics from the 2011 Census of Agriculture are released. Results show a small decrease in Yukon farm numbers and reported sales from five years earlier.
Summer 2012	YAA signs a lease with Yukon government for 65 hectares (ha) of agricultural land on the North Klondike Highway. Plans begin for community infrastructure that will increase food security and sustain the industry as it develops.
Fall 2012	Yukon agriculture was showcased when Yukon hosted the annual meeting of Agriculture Minsters and Deputy Ministers from across Canada. At this meeting, the Ministers agreed to the multilateral policy framework for Growing Forward 2.
Fall 2012	Steve and Bonnie Mackenzie-Grieve, owners of the Yukon Grain Farm, are Farmers of the Year for 2012, the second time this couple was honoured by their peers. This year it was for being leaders in the development of value-chains, implementing an on-farm food safety program, and community and customer service.

Agricultural Land Availability

AGRICULTURAL SUITABILITY

Less than two per cent of Yukon's 483,450 square kilometres is suitable for agricultural development because of limitations of geography, climate and soils. Agriculture is considered on lands south of 64.5° north latitude.

Yukon is part of the Canadian Cordilleran region, which is characterized by mountainous terrain. Soil-based agriculture is mostly limited to major river valleys of the Yukon River watershed, not including the Porcupine River which is north of 64.5°. Most agricultural activity in Yukon is located on river sediments in the Takhini and Dezadeash River valleys. The Liard River valley (part of the Mackenzie River watershed) also provides some exceptional agricultural opportunities on river sediments. Typical soils suitable for agriculture are formed on silts and clays deposited by proglacial Lake Champagne.

Yukon has a sub-arctic continental climate, with temperatures reaching as high as 30°C in the summer and as low as –50°C in the winter. The average frost-free period ranges from 93 days in the Watson Lake area to 21 days at Haines Junction. Frost-free periods also vary substantially from year to year at any location. Long hours of daylight during the summer promote rapid growth and compensate, to some extent, for the cooler summer temperatures experienced at a latitude north of 60°. Adequate heat units are the largest environmental constraint on agricultural capability in Yukon.

Average annual precipitation ranges from about 20 centimetres west of Whitehorse, to more than 40 centimetres in Watson Lake. Southwest Yukon, where most agricultural production occurs, lies within the rain shadow created by the St. Elias and Coastal mountains. This area is subject to droughts between April and July, which is a serious problem for crop germination.

Yukon soils are generally deficient in nitrogen and phosphorous. Potassium and sulphur abundance is often dependent on local geology and is difficult to predict. Since testing started in 1984, more than half of the soils tested by Yukon Agriculture Branch have been deficient in potassium. The most common micronutrient deficiencies are boron and magnesium. Soils throughout Yukon are low in organic matter, and salinity has been identified as a problem in localized areas.

Permafrost is found throughout Yukon, varying from sporadic discontinuous in southern agricultural areas, and increasing to extensive discontinuous at the northern extreme of agricultural activity in the territory. The Agriculture Branch is coordinating a four-year project to identify agricultural challenges related to changing permafrost conditions.

OBTAINING LAND FOR AGRICULTURE

There are two methods for obtaining land for agriculture: through private sale or through the Crown. Private land prices vary depending on the proximity of the property to Whitehorse. Currently, titled agricultural lands within 30 minutes from Whitehorse have been valued at over $3,000 per acre while land located 30 to 60 minutes from Whitehorse has been valued at around $2,500 per acre. Based on estimates from the Multiple Listing Service, the price throughout the rest of the territory is approximately $600 to $1,000 per acre.

Yukon is one of the few places in Canada where Crown (government) land can be obtained for agricultural purposes. To qualify for Crown land, an applicant must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, must be at least 19 years of age, and must have lived in Yukon for at least one year prior to the date of application.

The process begins with an application to the Agriculture Branch of the department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The application must describe the intended uses of the land, and the applicant must submit a Farm Development Plan (FDP) within 60 days of making the land application. The FDP is part of the application and must be approved by the Agriculture Branch. Applicants must also declare that they will retain their Yukon residency for the duration of any agricultural agreement for sale that may result.

Since the program started in 1982, the total amount of land that has been disposed of by Yukon government for agricultural use is 13,351 hectares in 334 dispositions. Land dispositions are predominantly around the Whitehorse area, with over 70% of these dispositions within 60 kilometres of Whitehorse.

AGRICULTURAL LAND APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) lays out a comprehensive arms-length-from-government environmental assessment process. A YESAA review includes input from governments (including First Nations), interest groups and the public. Agricultural land applications are submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) for determination of the environmental and socio-economic effects, including cumulative effects, of the proposed project. Review by YESAB is generally triggered by the section of the assessment regulations pertaining to clearing land using self-propelled power-driven equipment (Section 13.12). YESAB reviews can produce one of the following recommendations regarding proposed projects:

a) project proceeds (no terms and conditions specified);

b) project proceeds with terms and conditions; and

c) project does not proceed.

The Director of Agriculture, who is the Delegated Decision Maker for Yukon government agricultural land applications, accepts, rejects or varies (accepts with changes, usually minor) the YESAB recommendation. When the Director of Agriculture makes a decision that the project may proceed, a letter of offer is sent to the applicant. Following a survey of the applied-for parcel, the land is released to the applicant under an agreement for sale.

The agreement for sale is a development contract, and the appraised value of the parcel becomes the purchase price. Under the *Vision of Yukon Agriculture: 2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy*, every dollar of approved development work completed by the applicant results in one dollar of the purchase price being forgiven. The total expenditure on approved agricultural developments must equal the appraised market value after any development costs incurred by Yukon government are subtracted. The development costs incurred by government must be paid by the applicant before entering into an agreement for sale. If the applicant meets all the obligations of the agreement for sale within seven years or less, the Agreement is considered complete and title is issued.

Table 1. Agricultural land applications, agreements for sale and titles issued

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	#	ha	#	ha	#	ha	#	ha	#	ha
Agricultural land Applications*	21		15		9		12		10	
Agreements for Sale	12	352	11	416	14	508	9	381	9	180
Agricultural Titles Issued	13	638	13	614	8	379	14	423	9	369

** Agricultural land applications refer to spot land applications and successful planned agricultural land applications. Grazing applications are not included in this table.*

AGRICULTURAL LAND PLANNING

The *2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy* places an emphasis on the release of agricultural land through planned agricultural developments. Planned development is preferred because it:

- provides for the coordinated use of infrastructure such as roads and electricity;
- places less demand on services such as school busing;
- allows for the orderly planning of future services; and
- allows agriculture to be developed in accordance with regional and sub-regional plans where they exist.

Planned agriculture allows basic infrastructure (roads and power) to be established prior to land sales. The public, municipalities and First Nations will continue to be part of the planning process for planned agricultural areas. Background work is being carried out for further planned agricultural areas in several different locations. At any given time, two or three planned projects are being developed.

Table 2. Agreements for Sale from planned areas 2005–2012

Year	Total Ag Land Sales		Planned Ag Land Sales		Planned Ag Sales # as % of Total Ag Land Sales	Planned Ag Sales Area as % of Total Ag Land
	#	ha	#	ha		
2005	10	507	2	11	20%	2%
2006	10	416	0	0	0%	0%
2007	8	347	0	0	0%	0%
2008	12	352	5	86	42%	24%
2009	11	416	2	23	18%	6%
2010	14	508	1	50	7%	10%
2011	9	381	1	10	11%	3%
2012	9	180	2	39	22%	22%

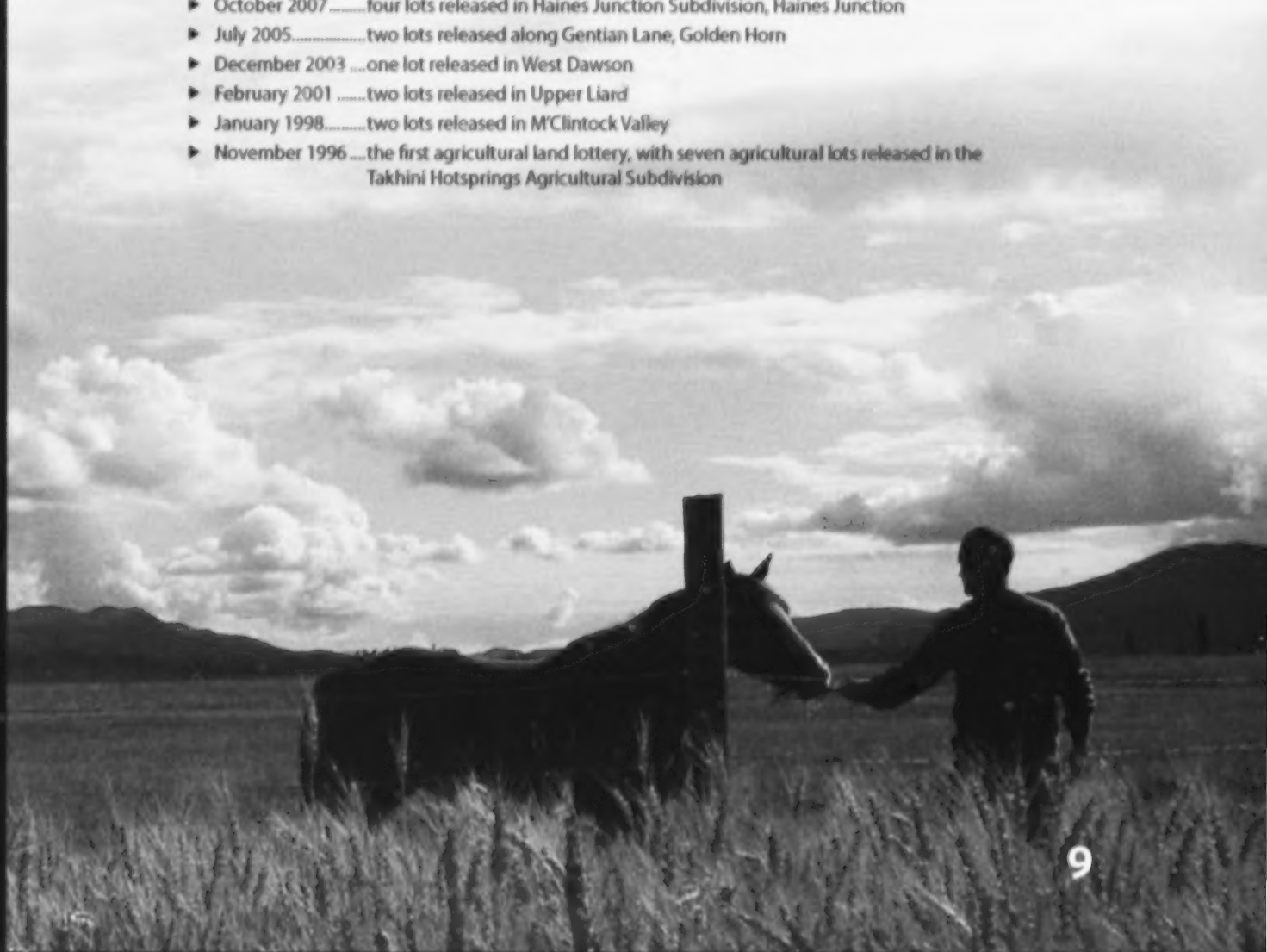
Planned agricultural lots prior to 2009 were sold through a public land lottery process. In May 2008, there were three lots released in the Marshall Creek Subdivision near Haines Junction. Since 1996, there have been seven public land lotteries, resulting in 21 agricultural lots released for a total of 325.7 ha.

In 2011, the Agriculture Branch changed to an evaluative/competitive approach to planned agricultural land sales. In this process, the Yukon government advertises that land is available in a planned area. An eligible applicant reviews the application package prepared by the Agriculture Branch and submits an application to the branch by the appointed time. The application includes a detailed Farm Development Business Plan (FDBP), which is prepared according to listed criteria that are assigned points. The submitted FDBP is reviewed by the Agriculture Branch and rated according to the specific FDBP evaluation criteria and against other plans for the same parcel. Agriculture Branch staff will approve the FDBP that best meets the specifications set out in the application package.

By the end of 2012, nine lots have been offered for sale under the evaluative planned land application process. The new application process has resulted in fewer applications received compared to the lottery program. The Agriculture Branch has been impressed by the care and detail of the farm plans submitted for this land sale process.

Summary of Planned Agricultural Dispositions:

- October 2012.....one lot released in Haines Junction Subdivision, Haines Junction
- May 2012.....one lot released in Haines Junction Subdivision, Haines Junction
- December 2011 ....two lots released in Haines Junction Subdivision, Haines Junction
- May 2008.....three lots released in Haines Junction Subdivision, Haines Junction
- October 2007.....four lots released in Haines Junction Subdivision, Haines Junction
- July 2005.....two lots released along Gentian Lane, Golden Horn
- December 2003 ....one lot released in West Dawson
- February 2001 .....two lots released in Upper Liard
- January 1998.....two lots released in M'Clintock Valley
- November 1996 ....the first agricultural land lottery, with seven agricultural lots released in the Takhini Hotsprings Agricultural Subdivision



AGRICULTURAL RESERVES AND LAND INVENTORY

Planned agricultural development areas require significant time to determine that land suitable for agriculture is identified, an appropriate development plan created and finally the land is released.

High demand for agricultural land is primarily found close to communities. Few agricultural land applications are received for remote sites, which are not likely to meet the *2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy* requirement for economically viable agriculture. The Agriculture Branch uses the local area planning process as one tool to identify agricultural lands. Approximately 130 ha of land are designated for agriculture in West Dawson Sunnydale, and about the same amount is designated for agriculture in the Marsh Lake Local Area Plan.

There are a number of parcels under Agricultural Reserve in several areas, including Upper Liard, McGregor Creek, Marshall Creek, near Champagne, near Cowley Lakes, along Gentian Lane, along Takhini Hot Springs Road and in Ibex Valley.

Currently, there is low demand for agriculture in the Central Yukon — a large area stretching from just south of Carmacks to Dawson and Mayo. The climate in central Yukon is capable of reliably maturing grains, and for that reason will be an important growth opportunity for Yukon agriculture.

SUBDIVISION OF TITLED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

The *2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy* provides for limited subdivision of agricultural land. In 2007, the *Subdivision Act* was amended to provide statutory authorization for the homesite subdivision process.

The *2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy* endorsed controlled subdivision of agricultural land as a means to provide orderly transition to a new generation of farmers. In this scenario, farmers use the subdivision opportunity to preserve their home on a new lot and pass the rest of the parcel to someone who will farm it. The subdivision opportunity has been used in this way, but it has more frequently been used as a way to generate capital that is sometimes reinvested in the farm operation. In November 2011, the Agriculture Branch analysed information from 26 processed homesite subdivision applications and determined that approximately 25% of the outcomes are in line with policy expectations.

By December 2012, there have been 32 applications for agricultural homesite subdivision. Twenty-six applications have been approved, four applications have been refused, one application has been withdrawn and one application was a duplicate. A subdivision approval requires that the survey be executed within 12 months of the date of authorization. Three authorizations have expired and are no longer valid. In all, 23 new lots have been created in the Whitehorse area by way of subdivision of agricultural lands.

Grazing Program

To help meet the grazing needs of Yukon livestock owners, the Yukon government grants grazing rights on designated areas of public land to eligible applicants. Grazing rights are conveyed to the applicant in the form of a grazing agreement. Under the *Yukon Grazing Policy*, the Agriculture Branch establishes and manages grazing agreements to provide sustainable grazing that is economically viable and compatible with other land and resource uses.

Grazing applications undergo a screening process to determine whether or not the area is suitable for grazing. This involves ruling out land-use conflicts and evaluating the grazing capacity of the area. Most grazing applications are subject to a *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) review because fence construction is a trigger for this type of review.

For each grazing agreement, the Grazing Management Coordinator prepares a grazing management plan, which outlines mandatory management practices for the grazing area. Grazing agreements are monitored throughout their tenure to ensure compliance with grazing management plans.

In 2010, there was a minor revision to the *Yukon Grazing Policy* to make grazing agreement holders responsible for removing their fences upon termination of their grazing agreements. In 2012, preparation work began for a more comprehensive policy revision.

In 2011 and 2012, the Agriculture Branch worked with the Department of Environment, local agricultural industry groups and grazing agreement holders to develop Best Management Practices for horse fencing on Yukon government grazing agreements. The Best Management Practices provide fencing construction guidelines and specifications to contain horses, but allow safe passage of wildlife.

Also in 2012, a Yukon government interdepartmental committee began work on developing Best Management Practices for livestock accessing waterbodies on grazing agreements.

Table 3. Summary of Grazing Program activities 2010, 2011 and 2012

Number of...	2010	2011	2012
Grazing agreements under administration	38	36	36
Hectares under grazing agreements	10608	10621	9428
Animal Unit Months* under grazing agreements	2414	2437	2291
Grazing applications received	3	3	3
New grazing agreements granted**	0	1	2
Average size of grazing agreements	279	295	262
Smallest grazing agreement area	7.3	7.3	7.3
Largest grazing agreement area	1286	1286	1286

* *Animal Unit Month is the amount of forage consumed by an adult cow or horse in one month (approximately 455 kg).*

** *Not all grazing applications are approved in the year they are received.*

Approximately 50% of current grazing agreements are located within 50 km of Whitehorse. The other 50% are located throughout Yukon. Most grazing agreements are used for grazing horses. Cattle are grazed on three grazing agreements. Goats are grazed on one grazing agreement.

Growing Season Conditions

Climate is often the limiting factor of agricultural production in Yukon. Air temperature and precipitation are monitored in various regions of the territory to determine seasonal growing conditions. Agroclimatic capability is determined with a calculation involving daily average temperature and length of growing season. The growing season officially begins on the fifth day of daily average temperature at or above 5°C and ends the first time the temperature drops to -2.2°C after July 15. The Effective Growing Degree Days (EGDD) for an area are calculated with a formula that includes growing season daily average temperature and takes into account long daylight hours. Over the years, comparisons of different agricultural areas in Yukon have shown interesting contrasts between regional climates.

Yukon's agricultural areas can be broadly divided into four regions:

- Whitehorse plateau and surrounding area, where the majority of the producers and consumers are located.
- Central Yukon basin, which is known to have a warmer climate than Whitehorse. This area includes Mayo and Dawson, the first agricultural area to be developed in Yukon.
- Southwest Yukon, Haines Junction, which was home to Agriculture Canada's research station from 1944 to 1968. This research station evaluated agricultural suitability for the area.
- Southeast Yukon, Watson Lake, which has a warmer climate and more precipitation than Whitehorse.

2010

All the major agricultural regions in Yukon experienced above average temperatures and growing conditions in 2010. An unusually warm spring extended the length of the growing season. In the Whitehorse area, the growing season officially began April 19, the earliest of any region in the past ten years. Both the central Yukon basin and the Watson Lake region were classified one agroclimatic capability class higher than the ten-year average (Class 2). Climate in the central Yukon and Watson Lake areas was adequate for the production of grain and warm season vegetables with few limitations. Despite the early warmth, three of the four regions had more than the average number of frosts. Haines Junction had the highest number of frosts with a total of 35 between April 30 and August 27.

Precipitation was mixed across the territory. Southeast Yukon experienced significantly drier weather than expected with 60 mm less precipitation than the 10-year average. Both the Whitehorse area and central Yukon had above average rainfall, especially in May and June. Haines Junction had relatively average precipitation for most of the summer until September, when it received 55 mm of precipitation, which was the highest in the past 10 years.

2011

Growing conditions varied throughout the territory in 2011 with no definitive trend across the regions. The Whitehorse, Haines Junction, and Dawson areas saw a late spring that created shorter growing seasons that had fewer frosts. Whitehorse and Haines Junction experienced cooler than normal temperatures during the summer. The late spring and cool temperatures caused below average agricultural productivity for both Whitehorse and Haines Junction. Dawson, however, had slightly warmer summer temperatures and maintained typical agroclimatic capabilities. Watson Lake, in southeast Yukon, had a relatively typical summer with an early spring and average precipitation. The daily temperatures were slightly above normal and frost occurrences close to normal.

Precipitation was significantly higher than normal around Whitehorse, Watson Lake, and Dawson City, with July and August being very wet months. To further limit growth with cool temperatures, Haines Junction received less precipitation than normally expected.

2012

In Whitehorse and Dawson, locals would tell you 2012 was a cool summer. Daytime temperatures weren't as high as expected, but relatively mild nighttime lows led to near normal daily average temperatures. Watson Lake experienced a late spring and average growing conditions. Southwest Yukon had fewer frosts than normal, but very cool average daily temperatures. The summer temperatures in Haines Junction were comparable to 2008, which was the worst growing season since 1987.

The central Yukon basin recorded average precipitation, with more rain in the spring than in the fall. The Whitehorse area experienced a different pattern, with most precipitation falling in June and July, but the total was 15 mm below the ten-year average. Haines Junction in southwest Yukon was significantly wetter than normal with a total of 239 mm of precipitation. The region hasn't seen that much rain and snow since 2000.

Table 4. Total Precipitation (mm) by Region: May–September

Year	Whitehorse Airport	Haines Junction	Dawson Airport	Watson Lake Airport
2010	176.1	139.0	155.7	191.3
2011	186.6	127.0	224.8	236.2
2012	146.4	239.0	161.5	No data
2003–12 Average	161.3	137.7	169.9	240.8

Table 5. Yukon Climatic Data, 2010, 2011 and 2012

Year	2010			2011			2012		
Location	EGDD*	Agro-climatic Capability Class	# of frosts during season	EGDD	Agro-climatic Capability Class	# of frosts during season	EGDD	Agro-climatic Capability Class	# of frosts during season
Whitehorse	1135	Class 3	24	1001	Class 4	4	922	Class 4	3
Haines Junction	940	Class 4	35	827	Class 5	14	628	Class 6	15
Dawson City	1294	Class 2	15	1172	Class 3	9	1165	Class 3	10
Watson Lake	1293	Class 2	15	1179	Class 3	11	1163	Class 3	3

** Effective Growing Degree Days*

The central Yukon and Watson Lake areas have consistently shown the best agroclimatic capabilities in the territory. Central Yukon is warmer, providing good growing conditions allowing for a wider variety of crop options. The higher level of rainfall in Watson Lake decreases irrigation demands, which may make production more viable. Watson Lake also appears to have later fall frosts, making the growing season longer than the other regions. Crop production in the Whitehorse and Haines Junction areas have climatic restrictions that have been overcome by the resourcefulness of agricultural producers and an awareness of the climate in these areas.

Production

Yukon farm production covers a wide range of crops and livestock. Grass hay continues to dominate the industry with the largest crop area and the highest gross income. In the past couple of years, Yukon grown vegetables have been prominently displayed in local grocery stores, and a wide selection of meats has been available from the farm gate or through local restaurants. We've also had greater access to local niche products in our stores, a trend that is sure to continue.

Most farming activity occurs around the Whitehorse area because of access to markets and to off-farm income. Unfortunately, Whitehorse experiences a cooler summer climate than most other areas of Yukon, making some crops difficult to produce.

The 2011 Census of Agriculture statistics were released May 10, 2012. Yukon data showed two important agricultural industry indicators, total farm numbers and total farm income, down from 2006. Total farm numbers fell from 148 to 130 (12%). The decrease occurred mostly in the small farm categories (earnings under $25,000), where 21 fewer farms reported than in 2006. Total farm income was $3.7 million, which was down by 10% from 2006. Total farm expenses and total farm income were close to equal for the first time. This indicates that, on an aggregated basis, farms are becoming more economically viable and efficient at meeting their bottom line.

Total farm capital was up 31% to $86.5 million from $66.1 million in the 2006 Census. The value of farm equipment (irrigation, tractors, trucks, etc.) has increased. For example, tractor numbers in the territory are up, with 220 reported on 106 farms with a value of $2.6 million. The vast majority of the increase in farm capital is due to the appreciation in land and buildings. This is a similar trend to that seen in the housing market. "That current average price is up over 100% from 2004, when the average price of a home in the Yukon capital was $187,900. Inflation over that six-year period was 11.4%, so the "real increase" is closer to 90%, according to the bureau." Farm land pricing is driven by the value of land as rural residential property.

Table 6. Total farm capital (Census data)

Census Year	Farms reporting	Total Farm Capital
2001	170	$ 50,206,295
2006	148	$ 66,118,480
2011	130	$ 86,563,618

Since the 2006 Census, the number of Yukon farm operators has dropped by 9% to 195 individuals (115 male, 75 female). There were also 57 seasonal employees and 22 full-time workers. The average age of Yukon farmers is 54 years, which matches the Canadian average.

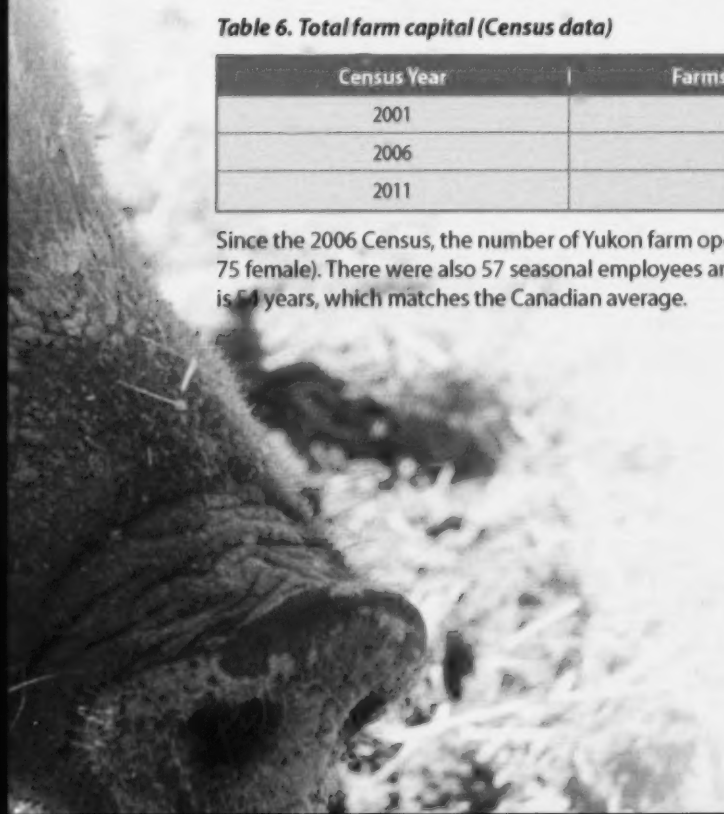
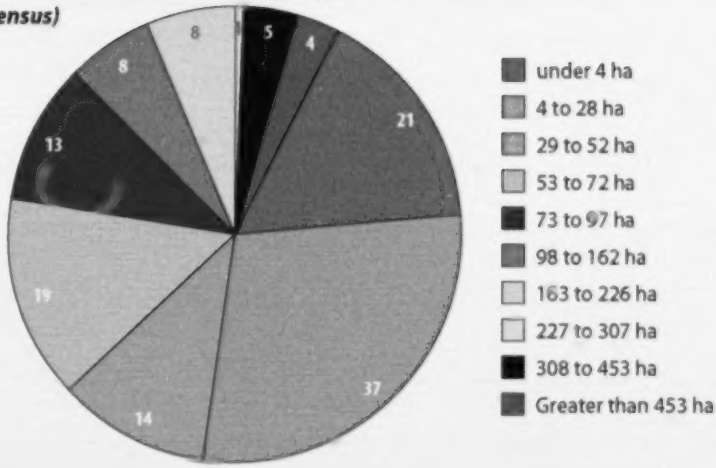


Figure 1. Yukon Farm Sizes (2011 Census)

Thirty-seven farms are in the 4 to 28 ha range, and over half of the farms reporting in Yukon are under 52 ha. Four farms are reported at over 453 ha in size.



LIVESTOCK

Animal husbandry in Yukon includes beef cattle, hogs, layers, broilers, turkeys, pheasants, sheep, goats, bees, rabbits, bison, elk, llamas, alpacas, and horses.

Table 7. Yukon Livestock on May 10, 2011 (2011 Census)

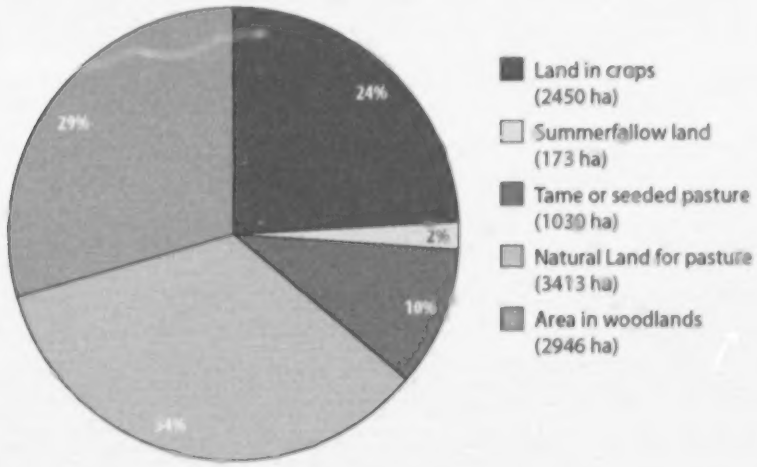
Animal	Farms Reporting	Number of Animals
Pigs	7	56
Cattle and calves	13	213
Sheep and lambs	4	72
Horses and ponies	50	615
Goats	6	90
Llamas and alpacas	6	29
Rabbits	4	30
Bison	1	X*
Elk	4	64
Hens and chickens	28	3601
Turkeys	5	190
Other poultry	6	41

** X denotes not enough aggregated data to use figure*

CATTLE	According to the 2011 Census of Agriculture, there were 213 cattle and calves in the territory, which is slightly lower than in 2006 (220). In 2011, thirteen farms reported having cattle. This is three farms more than in 2006. Some producers bring in feeder cattle in the spring and slaughter them in the fall. A few have cow/calf operations.
HOGS	Hog production in Yukon is a small industry, with seven farms reporting 56 hogs in the 2006 Census. Most operations bring in weaner pigs in the spring and butcher them for direct sales in the fall. Two producers are looking at breeding opportunities.
HORSES	The 2011 Census indicated that there were 615 horses and ponies in Yukon on 50 farms. This is a decrease from the last census and is also lower than a 2003 Yukon Government survey of horse owners which indicated around 1,800 horses. The discrepancy is likely due to the fact that most horses are off commercial farms.
ELK	The elk sector has stabilized and is predominantly focused on meat sales, with some sale of antler velvet. In the 2011 Census there were 64 game-farmed elk in Yukon on four farms.
BISON	By the end of 2012, there were no bison farms in the territory. The game farming sector is seeking to lift a ban on importing bison to restore the supply of local bison meat for Yukon consumers.
GOATS	There were 90 goats reported on six farms in the 2011 Census. This is a drop of 23 goats from the 2006 Census. Goats are used for dairy, meat and fibre.
SHEEP	In the 2011 Census, four farms reported a total of 72 sheep and lambs. Sheep are generally used for meat and fibre.
LLAMAS	This exotic, domestic livestock sector developed in Yukon in the mid-1990s and remains a piece of the livestock industry, with 29 animals reported on six farms in the 2011 Census. The animals are raised for their fibre and used as pack animals and breeding stock.
RABBITS	This is a small sector, with four farms reporting 30 animals, likely for meat consumption.
POULTRY	Demand continues to be stronger than supply in the poultry industry, which focuses on farm gate sales because there are limited government meat inspection options available. The 2011 Census showed poultry sales of 13,461 kg of meat, representing about 2,221 chickens reported on 13 farms. Broiler numbers in 2011 were up slightly from 2006, with 200 more birds and almost 4,000 kg more meat production. There was a decrease in the total number of birds since the last census because of a drop in layer numbers. In 2011, five farms reported raising turkeys, with total production of 2,308 kg. Yukoners consume approximately 500,000 birds per year, so the potential market for poultry is high. Yukon grown poultry meat is commonly marketed locally at $4 per pound, or for certified organic meat, up to $6 per pound.
EGGS	Egg production reported in the 2011 Census dropped from the 2006 Census, likely due to the retirement of Partridge Creek Farm, a long-time egg producer in central Yukon. However, there was good egg production reported on 21 farms (27,000 dozen in 2010). According to the 2011 Census, there were 1,146 layers on 26 farms. Small laying flocks are scattered throughout Yukon, supplying communities through direct sales and farmers' markets. Fresh local eggs typically sell for $6 per dozen or more.

FIELD CROPS Total acreage in farming and grazing reported in the 2011 Census was 10,646 ha. This is a 5% increase from the 2006 Census. This includes land leased from government (2,690 ha), which is grazing land and has dropped by 5% since 2006. Land owned (7,610 ha) has increased by 600 ha (9%) since the last census. Land in crops dropped by 8% from 2006 to 2,451 hectares. Total land prepared for seeding in 2011 was 817 ha on 58 farms, with nine farms reporting using a no-till seeding option on 157 ha.

Figure 2. Yukon Agricultural Land Use (2011 Census)



FORAGE CROPS Hay production is the single largest agricultural product grown in Yukon, both in terms of acreage and value. Over 1,867 ha of land produce tame hay (grass and a small amount of alfalfa) annually.

GRAIN The production of cereal grains (barley, oats and wheat) in Yukon is primarily limited by the market, and in the case of wheat, by climatic conditions. Barley and oat grain production has increased in the Whitehorse area to supply local feed for livestock. Currently, the annual planted grain area is approximately 50 ha across Yukon. An increase in the livestock sector, especially hogs and chickens, would lead to increased demand for local grain production, which would increase grain acreage. Wheat production is possible in central Yukon and could provide the wheat that is necessary to make a feed mix with appropriate nutrients and vitamins for livestock rations.

GREENFEED Greenfeed involves the production of oats, and sometimes barley and fall rye, as forage crops. This has always been an important component of fodder for Yukon livestock. Oats are most often used and harvested in bundles or bales. In the 2011 Census, land in oat greenfeed was 414 ha on 24 farms.

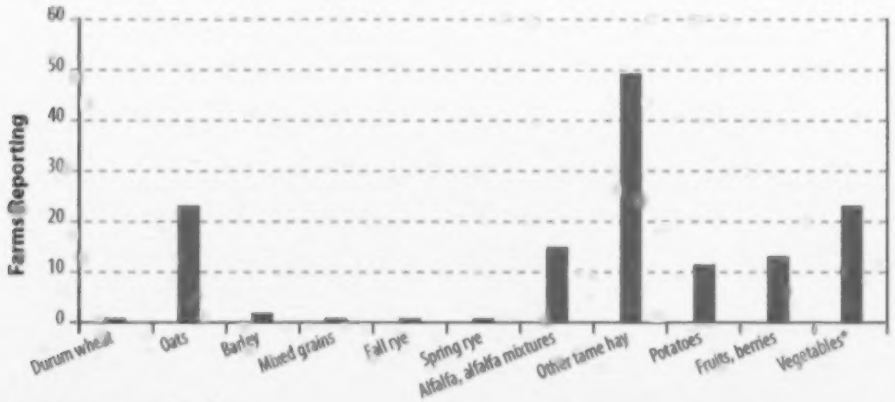
MARKET GARDEN

Vegetable production reported in the 2011 Census is similar to that of the 2006 Census with 13 ha in a variety of vegetables (15 ha in 2006). Potatoes, which are reported as a field crop on the census, were grown on 22 ha, based on 12 farms reporting.

FRUITS AND BERRIES

Production in fruit and berry orchards has increased steadily over the past 10 years. The 2011 Census reported 12 ha of fruit and berry production on 13 farms. Crops included apples, strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, haskaps and currants.

Figure 3. Yukon farms reporting various crops (2011 Census)



** Excluding greenhousing*

IRRIGATION

In the 2011 Census, 453 ha of land was reported as irrigated, which is 60% lower than in the 2006 Census. Decreasing irrigated acreage is likely due to increasing costs of production (fuel cost especially) and the greater need for labour when irrigating.

Table 8. Yukon Irrigated Land (2011 Census)

	Number of farms	Ha
Irrigated alfalfa, hay and pasture	9	323
Irrigated field crops	6	89
Irrigated vegetables	14	11
Irrigated fruit	10	X*
Other irrigated areas	3	X*

** X denotes not enough aggregated data to use figure*

CROP INPUTS Crop inputs included in the 2011 Census were herbicides, soil amendments, manure and fertilizers. Thirteen farms reported use of herbicides on 202 ha. Thirty-four farms reported use of commercial fertilizers on 931 ha. Fifty-nine farms applied manure. Herbicide and commercial fertilizer acreage have dropped substantially from 2006. When coupled with less irrigated acreage this is not an encouraging statistic as these crop inputs are often critical components of successful production.

SOD There continues to be strong demand for sod, which is provided by one longstanding farm operation.

SYRUP, PRESERVES AND HONEY Birch syrup is harvested from a grove in central Yukon to produce high quality birch syrup that is sold through local retailers. Many preserves, made from domestic berry harvests as well as wild berries, are available through local retailers. In 2011, honey production was reported on 3 farms.

GREEN-HOUSING As reported in the 2011 Census, greenhouse square footage dropped from 2006, with fewer farms reporting greenhouse production. Area under glass was 42,354 ft2 in 2011, compared to 54,052 ft2 in 2006. Most of the decrease was due to less greenhouse flower production. This likely results from changing market conditions in Whitehorse. For the past several years, large retailers have regularly shipped potted plants and flowers from southern distributors.

ORGANIC Since the 2006 Census, organic production farm numbers are up, with eight farms reporting sales. There are five certified organic farms and three farms in the process of becoming certified. All eight organic production farms reported fruits, vegetables or greenhouse products for sale, and four farms reported selling organic hay or field crops.

Government Staff Supporting Yukon Agricultural Industry

AGRICULTURE BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES, YUKON GOVERNMENT

The Yukon Agriculture Branch promotes the development of an agricultural industry in an environmentally sustainable way that will provide economic and social benefits to Yukoners and help diversify the Yukon economy. The Agriculture Branch was established on April 1, 1986, with a staff of two full-time employees and one part-time employee. With the growth of the agricultural sector over the past two and a half decades, the branch has expanded to eight full-time employees and two seasonal employees as well as several on-call contractors. Following are Agriculture Branch staff positions and duties.

The Director is responsible for the overall management of the branch. Duties include developing policy and regulations, managing the budget and finances, administering Growing Forward funding and other industry programs and overseeing agricultural land programs.

The Administrative Assistant provides administrative support to the employees of the Agriculture Branch, its activities and programs and to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada office.

The Manager of Agriculture Land Resources manages the agricultural spot land and planned land programs. This position represents the branch on several interdepartmental working groups.

The Agriculture Land Coordinator processes and tracks agricultural and grazing applications, prepares legal documents and administers grazing agreements and agricultural agreements for sale.

The Agriculture Development Officer works with land applicants on farm development plans, assesses required development of agricultural land dispositions, oversees operation of the mobile abattoir and coordinates livestock control services.

The Grazing Management Coordinator provides technical support for the Grazing Program by determining the grazing capacity of Yukon land, inspecting grazing agreements and writing Grazing Management Plans.

The Agriculture Spatial Database Administrator creates and analyses agricultural spatial data, provides mapping support services to the branch and its clients and assesses land for agricultural capability.

The Agrologist manages the branch research and demonstration program, provides production and marketing extension services to the agricultural community and oversees publication of research reports.

The Agriculture Research Technician assists in the branch research and demonstration program by managing research plots, maintaining weather stations, compiling and analysing data and helping with research reports.

ANIMAL HEALTH UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, YUKON GOVERNMENT

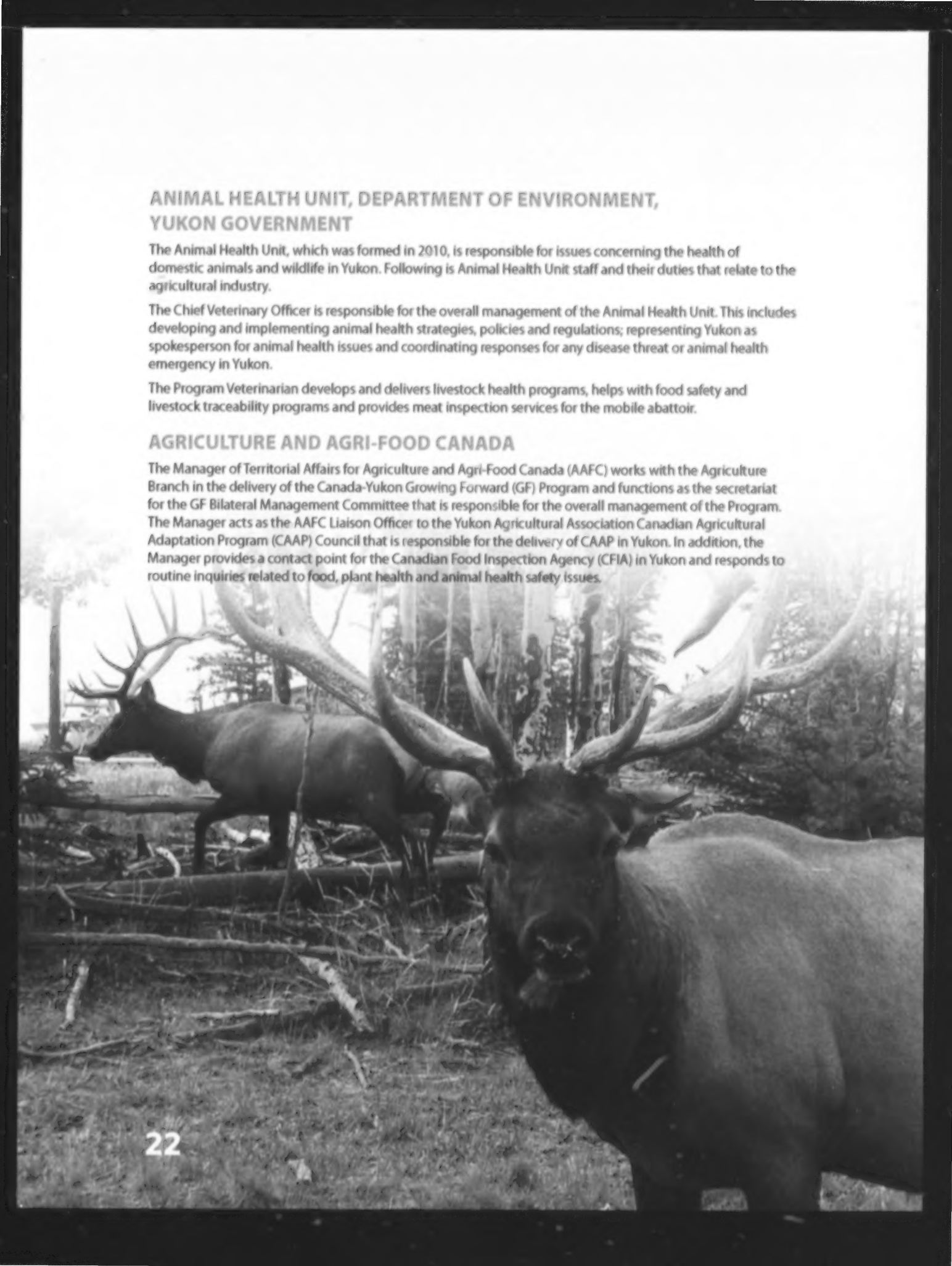
The Animal Health Unit, which was formed in 2010, is responsible for issues concerning the health of domestic animals and wildlife in Yukon. Following is Animal Health Unit staff and their duties that relate to the agricultural industry.

The Chief Veterinary Officer is responsible for the overall management of the Animal Health Unit. This includes developing and implementing animal health strategies, policies and regulations; representing Yukon as spokesperson for animal health issues and coordinating responses for any disease threat or animal health emergency in Yukon.

The Program Veterinarian develops and delivers livestock health programs, helps with food safety and livestock traceability programs and provides meat inspection services for the mobile abattoir.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

The Manager of Territorial Affairs for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) works with the Agriculture Branch in the delivery of the Canada-Yukon Growing Forward (GF) Program and functions as the secretariat for the GF Bilateral Management Committee that is responsible for the overall management of the Program. The Manager acts as the AAFC Liaison Officer to the Yukon Agricultural Association Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) Council that is responsible for the delivery of CAAP in Yukon. In addition, the Manager provides a contact point for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in Yukon and responds to routine inquiries related to food, plant health and animal health safety issues.



Research

YUKON GOVERNMENT CROP PRODUCTION RESEARCH

The Agriculture Branch is responsible for the Yukon Government Research Farm located at the Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest. The site has been used intensively since 1988, initially for demonstration of crop varieties suitable to the north and evolving over the years to encompass a number of research trials. Work has continued on crop variety assessments along with evaluations of soil conservation and enrichment, economics of production, appropriate technologies and irrigation optimization.

Projects are conducted in partnership with farms located in various areas of Yukon. Partnerships, which take advantage of on-farm expertise and give insight into the diverse climates in Yukon, are critical to testing research results.

Results for research and demonstration trials can be found in the annual Yukon Agriculture Research and Demonstration progress reports. Copies can be obtained online at **www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca** or at the Agriculture Branch front counter.

Research highlights from 2010, 2011 and 2012 include:

SOIL AMENDMENTS

An ongoing trial, which began in 2010, is testing the effectiveness of amendments in northern soils. Four major soil amendments are being tested: synthetic fertilizer (NPK), organic fertilizer, compost, and compost with lime. From research outside Yukon, it was expected that synthetic NPK fertilizer would initially produce higher yields than alternative soil amendments, but over time the alternative amendments would produce yields comparable to synthetic NPK. In 2010 our results followed the expected trend with lower yields from compost and organic amendments compared to synthetic fertilizer. By 2011, the gap in crop yield between synthetic NPK and alternative amendments decreased. By 2012, year three of the trial, yields from plots amended with organic fertilizer matched yields from synthetically fertilized plots, but yields from compost and compost with lime plots decreased below first year levels.

WHEAT

In Yukon, the use of wheat is limited to feed grain. In 2009, wheat trials were started to explore different management practices and new varieties. In the Whitehorse area during cold growing seasons such as 2011, wheat did not mature and was plowed into the ground. Growing conditions in the central Yukon outperformed conditions around Whitehorse making wheat an attractive crop option with yields between 2-4 tonnes per hectare (t/ha). Wheat seed quality varied, but it was suitable to be used in feed rations to support the steadily growing poultry and hog sectors of Yukon agriculture. Of the five wheat varieties that matured at the Research Farm in 2012, variety 5604 HR CL matured the earliest. This could be a significant advantage in marginal conditions.

FIELD PEAS Field peas offer an option for Yukon producers interested in a multipurpose crop that can be used for feed or silage or as green manure. A yellow field pea trial conducted in the Whitehorse and central Yukon areas began in 2010. Field pea biomass for silage or green manure plow down ranged from 4 to 10 t/ha. Field pea seed yield in central Yukon under irrigated conditions was between 1.5 to 4.5 t/ha, which provides an attractive local protein replacement for some feed mixes. In warm years, field peas matured around Whitehorse, but the highest and most consistent yields were in central Yukon, where the Polstead variety produced high yields of mature field pea seed in all three years of the trial.

OATS Oats, a versatile crop, can be used for grain or forage or can be plowed down for green manure. An oat trial conducted in the Whitehorse and central Yukon areas began in 2010. Throughout the trial, oat seed production was viable in central Yukon and in some locations in the Whitehorse area where there was sufficient heat. AC Mustang oats were a consistently strong performer and produced yields similar to some newer oat varieties suitable for the north. The trial produced some high yields such as Murphy seed yields of over 7 t/ha. Yields for forage or green manure ranged from 4 to 12 t/ha, depending on management, oat variety and climate. In all years of the trial, irrigation provided greater consistency and yield for grain or biomass compared to dryland production.

POTATOES Two potato trials were initiated in 2012. One trial, conducted at the Yukon Grain Farm in partnership with Van Loon Farms, compared the yields of several potato varieties. The six varieties planted were Ranger Russet, Russet Norkotah, Norland, Chieftain, Shepody and Yukon Gold. Norland, Shepody and the russets produced the highest yields, and Yukon Gold yielded noticeably less. Chieftain had the lowest overall yield. As baking potatoes, russet varieties need to be large, and this was not achieved.

The second potato trial, conducted at the Yukon Grain Farm and the research farm, examined the effect of in-row plant spacing on yield and potato size. At the Yukon Grain Farm, a significant increase in potato size and yield per plant was directly correlated with increasing the in-row spacing. Spacing plants 62 cm (24") apart uses half the seed as 31 cm (12") spacing, but there is little difference in the t/ha yield with different spacing. At the research farm, larger potato sizes were also seen with an increase in in-row spacing, but total yields dropped especially at 62 cm (24").

FORAGE The forage demonstration is an ongoing project at the research farm. A variety of forage species have been planted in dryland and irrigated systems. An additional research project to compare fall fertilizing with spring fertilizing has been implemented.

RASPBERRIES The raspberry orchard assessment, which evaluated management and economics, started in 2005 and ended in 2010. A small orchard will remain at the research farm for demonstration. In 2010, raspberry production was over 130 kg/1,000 m2 (.1 ha), which is an improvement from 2009 production.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESEARCH FUNDING

Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (2010/2011/2012)

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a five-year (2009-2014), $163 million program with the objective of facilitating the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sectors' ability to seize opportunities, to respond to new and emerging issues, and to find and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues in order to help it adapt and remain competitive.

CAAP is a successor to the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program and continues to support industry-led initiatives at the national, regional and multi-regional levels. CAAP funds sector-identified projects that align with priorities identified by industry and/or government.

The Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) signed an agreement in October 2009 to deliver CAAP in Yukon. YAA has established the YAA CAAP Council which is responsible for administration of the program, evaluation of project proposals and project funding decisions.

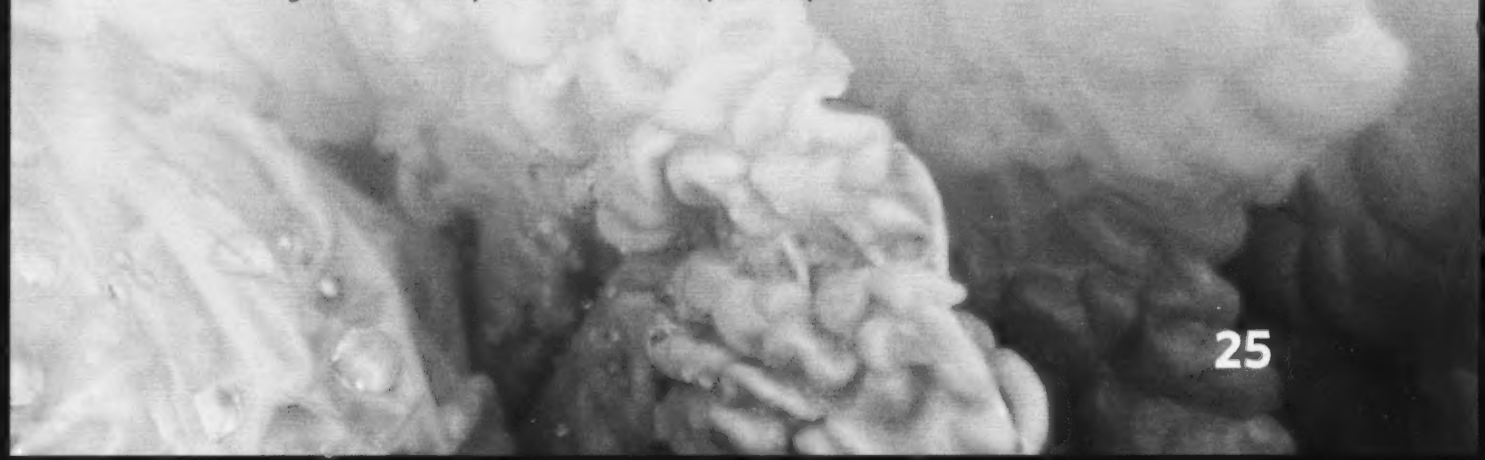
A total of $924,066 funding was approved for eight projects conducted under CAAP in 2010, 2011 and 2012. A list of these projects along with the approved CAAP funding can be found in Table 8. A brief description of the major projects follows.

Table 9. CAAP funded projects in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Projects	Funding
Potluck Food Cooperative Community Situation Mapping and Literature Review Project	$10,800
Improving Soil Nutrient Levels and Increasing Crop Production Through the Use of Biochar	$214,349
Dawson Community Food Survey and Market Expansion Strategy	$25,901
Nutrient Conversion - Insect Larvae: Waste to Feedstuff	$5,212
Waste Management Strategies for On-Farm Meat Processing	$16,530
Evaluate the Sustainability and Expansion Potential for Irrigated Agriculture in the Yukon Territory	$61,335
Hydro-Kinetic Agriculture Power Project-Yukon (HAPP-Y)	$282,294
Foundational Agri-Food System Design for the Yukon Territory	$307,645

Improving soil nutrient levels and increasing crop production through the use of biochar

The purpose of this three-year research study is to determine the agronomic potential of biochar to improve Yukon soil composition under northern climatic conditions. The study will assess whether applying biochar to Yukon soils has a beneficial impact on soil development and productivity in order to increase agricultural production and diversification. The study involves a laboratory evaluation of biochars produced from different feedstocks, and a field research study to test biochar under various soil conditions and with different types of crops over a three-year period. The use of biochar as a soil amendment could reduce the need for fertilizers and irrigation. The second year of the research study was completed in 2012.



Evaluate the sustainability and expansion potential for irrigated agriculture in Yukon

The objective of this project was to develop a long-term, comprehensive irrigation strategy for Yukon in order to provide the rationale and direction needed to access irrigation water for agriculture in the future. The project, which was completed in 2012, involved a review of the current state of the irrigation industry and a study of factors and conditions that would lead to the expansion of irrigated agriculture in Yukon. The project also examined factors that influence the sustainability of the irrigated agricultural industry and provided recommendations on ways to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of existing and proposed irrigated agricultural production.

Hydro-Kinetic Agriculture Power Project-Yukon (HAPP-Y)

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate and evaluate the suitability and viability of using a 5 KW vertical axis hydrokinetic generator to produce power for farm applications, particularly for the operation of electrical irrigation pumps. If this technology is proven viable for use on Yukon farms located in close proximity to suitable Yukon rivers, it can lead to a marked reduction in farm energy costs, pollution, carbon emissions and environmental risk. It can lead to additional farm revenue through net metering programs and reduce the operating cost load for potential agricultural industry development projects. Commencement of this project was delayed due to environmental assessment requirements, so the active work on the project started in 2012 with an expected completion date in 2014.

Foundational Agri-Food System Design for Yukon

The objective of this project is to develop a foundational design for a Yukon Agri-Food System (including production, wild and traditional food provisioning, processing, distribution and consumption) that supports Yukon agriculture and food provisioning, strengthens Yukon's economy, promotes environmental stewardship, fosters food security and public health, and strengthens Yukon's communities. This project will produce a vision and a roadmap for Yukon's agri-food system future and indicate how opportunities in this sector can be fostered and supported by government and pursued by communities and the private sector. It will provide critical information and targeted tools to be used by existing and future Yukon farmers and food-sector entrepreneurs (suppliers, processors, contractors, etc.), consumers, and community, Government and First Nations leaders. Approval for the first phase of the project was received in 2012, and it is anticipated that this phase of the project will be completed by March 2014.

Extension Services

The Agriculture Branch provides a wide array of extension services to assist Yukon producers. Agriculture Branch staff can provide up-to-date information and advice on a variety of topics including:

- land acquisition
- farm management
- production
- marketing
- conservation techniques
- new technologies and
- farm financing.

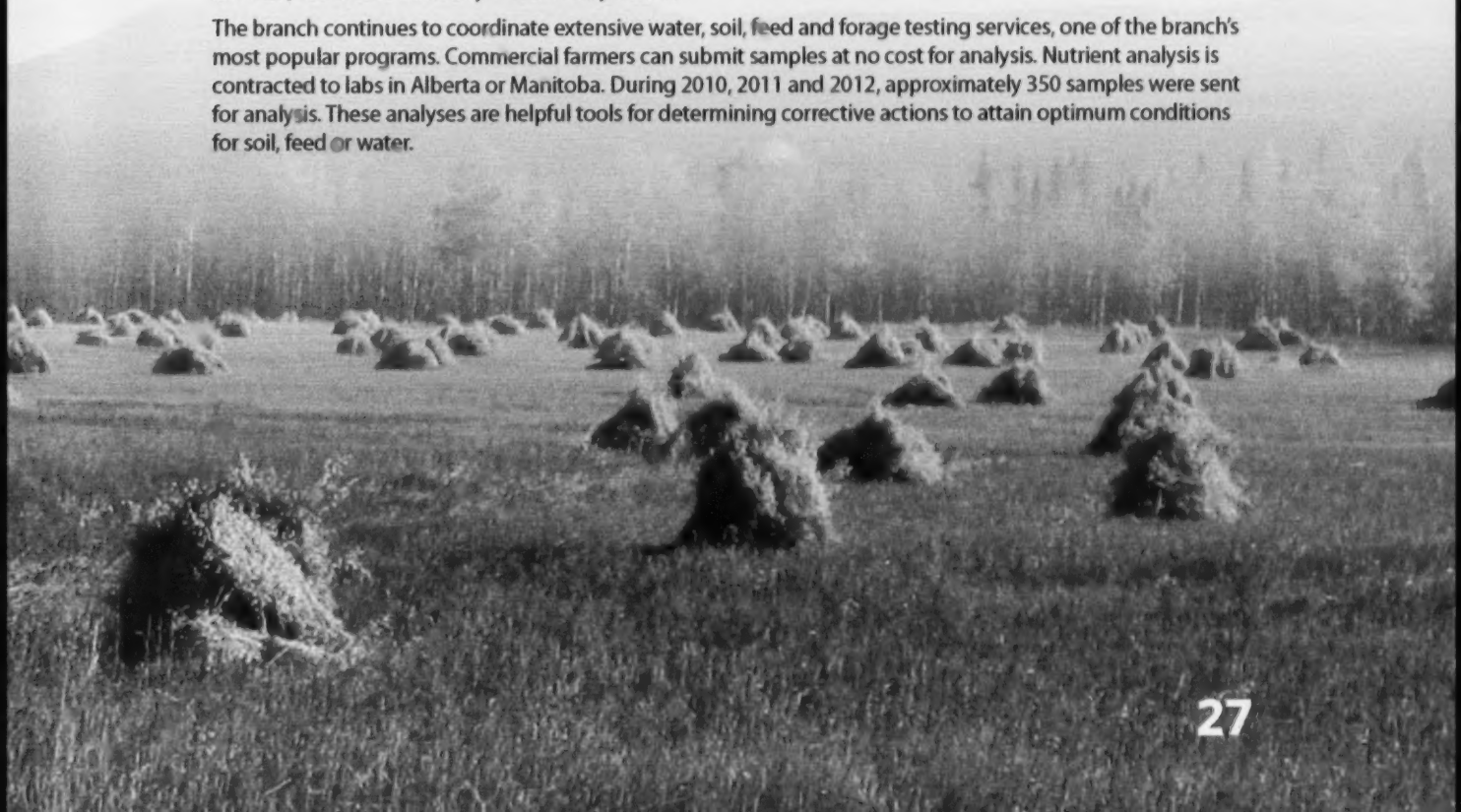
Consultations are done by phone, by email, at the branch office and during on-farm visits.

The Agriculture Branch continues to rely on research, conducted at the research farm and at a number of Yukon farms, to provide Yukon-specific advice to farmers. Through the extension services, a link is created between this research and its on-farm application. The RESEARCH section of this document provides more information on studies the Agriculture Branch has undertaken.

In addition to ongoing research, the branch has a number of other information resources available to farmers. Agricultural publications, books and magazines are accessible through the Energy, Mines and Resources library, located on the third floor of the Elijah Smith Building.

Since 1987, the Agriculture Branch has published the quarterly bulletin, InFARMation, to keep producers up-to-date on industry activities and events. The newsletter contains articles on crops, research, production services, livestock husbandry and industry trends.

The branch continues to coordinate extensive water, soil, feed and forage testing services, one of the branch's most popular programs. Commercial farmers can submit samples at no cost for analysis. Nutrient analysis is contracted to labs in Alberta or Manitoba. During 2010, 2011 and 2012, approximately 350 samples were sent for analysis. These analyses are helpful tools for determining corrective actions to attain optimum conditions for soil, feed or water.



Seminars

The North of 60° Agriculture Conference, held the first weekend of every November, is Yukon's primary agricultural seminar. It is organized by the Agriculture Branch and co-sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This seminar provides an opportunity for local producers to share their experiences and hear from experts on a variety of topics.

In 2010, the seminar included a new farmers' forum to discuss challenges facing new Yukon farmers in today's market, and an introduction to Farm Business Assessments looking at a Yukon-specific case study. The case study examined the financial implications of expanding a hypothetical broiler business from a small 400 bird-per-year operation to a 12,000 bird-per-year operation. There were also presentations on poultry and horse nutrition and the viability of the Alaska agricultural industry over the years.

In 2011, the North of 60° conference focused on labour options and tractor shopping.

In 2012, a number of topics were discussed, including the new online Yukon Lands Viewer, an overview of farm commodity insurance in Alberta, and an introduction to a livestock health program to be delivered by the Yukon Government Program Veterinarian. Historian Michael Gates gave an interesting presentation on the Great Cattle Drives to the Klondike. There were introductions to the Yukon Young Farmers group and to Kent Mullinix and the Designing a Yukon Food System project. An overview of bookkeeping and farm financial analysis provided useful business information.

Yukon Master Gardener

The Yukon Master Gardener course continues to be offered in partnership with Yukon College. The course began in 1997 with help from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service (**www.uaf.edu/ces/**). Each year, local gardening experts and Agriculture Branch staff instruct 25 northern gardeners. Over 40 hours of instruction are provided, covering gardening topics such as botany, soil fertility, garden management and integrated pest management.

Marketing

Over the past three years, Yukon agricultural products have been promoted and marketed through a number of channels, including stores, websites, farmers' markets, face-to-face sales, industry associations and the Agriculture Branch. Local products were placed front and center in stores and highlighted on restaurant menus. When stores and restaurants showcase Yukon grown products, it reaches a broader audience and builds awareness of the industry.

Currently, Yukon producers can take advantage of the opportunity to list their farms and products on the yukonfood.com website through the Yukon Farm Products and Services Guide or through individual websites. The Potluck Food Co-op provides a glimpse of things to come as it attempts to build an online storefront with the ability to buy and sell food and farm products. This style of marketing will likely become more common in the future, and it will provide new, affordable avenues for producers to create a presence and to sell to consumers.

2012 was a great year for hay production, so the fall of that year was a good time to promote the reasons to buy local hay. A number of producers placed newspaper advertisements to sell Yukon grown hay.

The Agricuture Branch continues to market Yukon agricultural products through the InFARMation newsletter published four times a year and distributed throughout Yukon by free subscription.

The Yukon Agricultural Association promotes farms and farm products through their bulletin board and Ploughboy newsletter.

Canada-Yukon Growing Forward Programs

The Canada–Yukon Growing Forward policy framework is a five-year federal/territorial agreement to deliver cost-shared agricultural programs to Yukon. The objectives of Growing Forward are to foster a competitive, innovative agricultural industry that contributes to society's priorities and is proactive in managing business and biosecurity risks. The original Growing Forward agreement expired on March 31, 2013.

National Growing Forward programs have been adapted to meet Yukon agricultural industry needs. During 2010, 2011 and the first three quarters of 2012, Growing Forward program investment in Yukon was over $2 million. This was cost-shared 60:40 between the Government of Canada and the Yukon government.

Table 10. A summary of federal and territorial Growing Forward investment in Yukon agriculture in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Growing Forward Program Area	2010	2011	2012*	Total GF funding 2010–2012
Food Safety: From Field to Fork	$134,456	$107,573	$48,484	$290,513
Agriculture in the Environment	$251,239	$295,761	$177,800	$724,800
Environmental and Food Safe Farm Plan	$63,808	$43,825	$38,610	$146,243
Human Resource Development	$81,278	$82,304	$36,012	$199,594
Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities	$110,316	$121,983	$100,726	$333,025
Northern Agricultural Innovation	$179,481	$122,870	$80,539	$382,890
Risk Management	$13,735	$11,844	$18,141	$43,720
Total GF funding for all programs	$834,313	$786,160	$500,312	$2,120,785

** Includes data until the end of the third quarter of 2012.*

Food Safety and Food Quality

During 2010, 2011 and 2012, a number of projects and initiatives, designed to improve the safety and quality of locally produced food and to identify and mitigate farm biosecurity risks, were undertaken in Yukon.

The largest expenditure in this area was funding for a contract to operate and maintain the mobile abattoir ($35,000 per year). Meat inspection service at the mobile abattoir, which is provided free to producers, is funded through Growing Forward. In 2010, the Agriculture Branch, with assistance from the Poultry Processing Cooperative, conducted a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of using the mobile abattoir to produce inspected white meat. The project showed that, with experience and appropriate on-farm infrastructure, using the mobile abattoir could be a cost effective way for poultry farmers to produce inspected meat, allowing them to enter the retail market stream.

Table 11. Number of Animals slaughtered in the mobile abattoir in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Year	Beef	Elk	Hogs	Chickens
2010	67	7	1	285
2011	16	0	0	0
2012	21	3	0	0

Yukon producers accessed Growing Forward funding to construct on-farm mobile abattoir docking facilities, to purchase food safety equipment and to attain On-Farm Food Safety Certification. Training initiatives included Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training and food safety training workshops.

Since 2010, the Agriculture Branch has been implementing a Premise Identification registry for locations in Yukon where livestock is held and recording the livestock present there. This is part of a national livestock traceability system involving federal, provincial and territorial governments working with Canadian agricultural industry groups. The other elements of the traceability system are animal identification and movement recording. To date, only a small percentage of Yukon farmers have completed Premise Identification forms.

DISEASE MONITORING

The Agriculture Branch works with the Government of Canada, other Yukon government departments and the agricultural industry to monitor plant and animal diseases.

The insects and diseases that affect Yukon plants and animals are limited in number. Most problems related to crop production are due to weather. Livestock populations are generally in good health.

As part of disease monitoring, the Agriculture Branch oversees the national Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program for Yukon cervids. In 2003, Yukon government implemented a Mandatory Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program and a Voluntary Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program. These programs, which are a framework for CWD monitoring, provide assurance to national and international markets that Yukon game-farmed cervids are routinely tested for and remain negative for CWD.

Plant disease concerns should be brought to the attention of the Yukon government Agrologist at (867) 667-5838 or toll free at 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5838. Animal disease concerns should be brought to the attention of the Yukon government Program Veterinarian (867) 667-8663.

Infrastructure Development

Over the past three years, infrastructure work has focused on increasing on-farm processing capacity, developing community gardens, improving government infrastructure support and providing access to cooperative farm equipment within Yukon.

Through the Growing Forward program, funding was provided to support the development of six community gardening and/or greenhouse projects in five communities throughout Yukon. Yukon community gardens are developed largely to promote education, training and health and wellness initiatives. All community gardens have been initiatives of local government or non-profit societies.

Cooperative projects led by the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) during the period included the purchase of farm equipment that is available for rent from the association and the purchase of bulk fertilizer bins that can be used cooperatively by local farmers. The Yukon Young Farmers Group, the Growers of Organic Food Yukon and YAA accessed funding under the Growing Forward Agriculture Development Initiative to improve capacity within their organizations.

On-farm infrastructure development included the establishment of facilities for feed storage, wool processing, meat processing and cooling, and vegetable processing, refrigeration and cold storage.

During 2010, 2011 and 2012, government infrastructure support included the continued operation and maintenance of the mobile red meat abattoir, the provision of meat inspection services and the hiring of a Chief Veterinarian and a Program Veterinarian who provide regulatory and program services to the agricultural industry.

In August 2012, Yukon government signed a thirty-year lease providing YAA with 65 ha of agricultural and grazing lands in a farming community just north of Whitehorse. The leased area should provide YAA with a location to develop cooperative infrastructure and to pursue related agricultural projects that promote the strategic growth of Yukon agriculture in the interests of all Yukon farmers. Lease site zoning supports the development of meat processing infrastructure and allows for the sale of agricultural products.

Work on identifying and developing priority infrastructure projects for the industry will continue in coming years. The Agriculture Branch continues to work on policies and legislation to enable further meat processing infrastructure and is looking at options for developing a white meat abattoir in the southern Yukon. As well, community farmers' markets throughout Yukon are supported through Growing Forward in hopes that the supply for Yukon grown and raised agricultural products may someday equal the demand.

Environmental Responsibility

The Agriculture Branch supports and promotes environmental stewardship through a number of policies, programs and processes.

Environmental and Food Safe Farm Plans

Through Growing Forward, a number of beneficial management practices (BMPs) are funded at a 50% cost share in order to promote environmental sustainability. By the end of 2012, 57 farms had received the Environmental and Food Safe Farm Plan package, and 40 farms had completed their plans.

Underutilized Land Initiative

This Growing Forward program provides up to $250 per hectare to improve the utilization of existing titled farm land that was developed for agricultural use at one time but needs reclamation to make it productive again.

Wildlife Damage Prevention Program

This Growing Forward program provides assistance to protect high-value crops and pasture lands from damage by wildlife. It provides funding to install approved wildlife fences or to use wildlife deterrents. This includes purchasing a guardian dog to keep wildlife away from crop areas.

Table 12. Environmental projects funded through Growing Forward in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Program	Projects	Total Cost of Projects	GF Funding
Underutilized Land Initiative	11	$131,250	$32,350
Wildlife Damage Prevention Program	12	$76,281	$32,990
Environmental BMPs	36	$636,587	$197,338

The Environment and Agricultural Land Dispositions

Under the *Vision of Yukon Agriculture: 2006 Yukon Agriculture Policy* and the *Yukon Grazing Policy*, the Agriculture Branch disposes of agricultural and grazing land in an environmentally responsible manner. Agricultural and grazing land applications are subject to a review by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB). This process provides a comprehensive review of the impacts and possible mitigations associated with agricultural development of an area. The review includes input from First Nation governments, affected stakeholders, other Yukon government agencies and the public.

Agricultural land applicants are required to submit a Farm Development Plan that identifies potential environmental concerns with the proposed operation and the methods that will be used to address these concerns. This may include commitments to soil conservation, water management, shelterbelts, buffers and habitat retention. Grazing Agreement holders must comply with a Grazing Management Plan that outlines grazing management practices to prevent habitat degradation and to minimize impacts on wildlife.

Economic Development

The agricultural sector contributes to Yukon's economy through the production, purchase, sale, processing and marketing of farm products, farming inputs, and farm machinery and infrastructure. The sale and development of agricultural land and the generation of agricultural jobs also adds to Yukon's economy. Agriculture strengthens Yukon's economy through diversification. With the sector's growth potential, agriculture should continue to make substantial contributions to our economy.

Commercial Viability of Farms

Growing Forward business planning programs, and cost of production analyses, allow Yukon farmers to identify and focus on business models that are commercially viable in the north. For the first time, the 2011 Census demonstrated a closing gap between total farm expenses and total income in Yukon. This indicates that the commercial viability of Yukon agriculture is improving.

During 2010, 2011 and 2012 there were continued investments in equipment and buildings on farms, with new barns, tractors, hay sheds and specialized equipment. The total value of farm capital has climbed to $86.5 million on 18 fewer farms from $66 million in 2006. This figure includes land, buildings, livestock and equipment.

In 2011, the Agriculture Land Program shifted focus to a competitive approach for planned agricultural land sales. (See AGRICULTURAL LAND PLANNING). This new process, which places emphasis on the Farm Development Business Plan, is designed to increase the commercial viability of new agricultural developments.

Enabling Competitive Enterprises and Farm Diversification

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Agriculture Branch delivered three Growing Forward programs that provided learning opportunities and resources for Yukon producers and agricultural organizations to build capacity within the industry. Through these programs, the Agriculture Branch hopes to build a sector that is better equipped with the knowledge and resources necessary to succeed in an increasingly demanding and complex business environment. The programs will continue until the end of the Growing Forward program in March 2013.

Agriculture Training Program:

This program provides support for the presentation of agricultural courses, seminars, workshops and conferences, both on-farm and in more formal, educational settings to develop the human resource capabilities of Yukon's agricultural industry. This program also provides support for individuals to attend agricultural courses, seminars, workshops and conferences.

Agriculture Internship and Mentorship Program

This program provides opportunities for established members of the Yukon agricultural and agri-food industry to hire new entrants to the industry as agricultural interns in their agri-businesses. It also provides new entrants into the industry with an opportunity to access agricultural and agri-food industry mentors.

Agriculture Education Program

This program provides educational resources for "agriculture in the classroom" activities and similar educational activities presented by agricultural organizations, and supports the development of agri-based curriculum and communications materials for schools. In addition, the program provides funding for agriculture-related youth development and leadership programs and supports the development of agricultural communication tools, such as newsletters or websites.

Table 13. Human Resource Development, 2010, 2011 and 2012

Program	Number of projects	Funding
Agriculture Training Program	20	$68,061
Agriculture Internship and Mentorship Program	11	$19,347
Agriculture Education Program	16	$44,425
Total	**47**	**$131,833**

ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

During 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Agriculture Branch delivered four programs under Growing Forward's Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities initiative to develop marketing activities and strategies, strengthen and support the diversification of Yukon agriculture, and assist industry development through investment in infrastructure, equipment and land. The initiatives help to support economic diversification and increase value-added processing within the industry, along with helping industry identify and develop new market opportunities and enable competitiveness and innovation within the sector.

Market Development Initiative (MDI)

This initiative provides resources to investigate and capture new market opportunities and to enhance the competitive capability of the industry. Activities include marketing and agri-food promotional activities, events and communication materials, market development strategies and support for marketing organizations such as community farmers' markets and cooperative market facilities.

A significant number of projects supported under this initiative in 2010, 2011 and 2012 came from the Fireweed Community Market Society. The Society was established through funding from the Canada-Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework Program in place from 2005 to 2008, and continued to grow with support from the MDI under Growing Forward. In addition to an Outdoor Summer Market and "Yukon Made" store in Shipyards Park, the Fireweed Community Market Society held a 12 Days of Christmas Market. The Society used MDI funding to hire a seasonal market manager, present workshops at the weekly summer market and hold seasonal events celebrating local food.

The MDI also supported Yukon agricultural industry participation in the Dawson City Gold Show in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Agricultural Development Initiative (ADI)

This initiative provides funding to develop agricultural projects that enhance regional economic development and contribute to sustainability in rural communities. Activities include the introduction of new agricultural technologies and processes, consultant services to provide professional, technical and analytical support, and activities to encourage the development and commercialization of Yukon agri-based or native country foods. This initiative also provides funding for agricultural infrastructure, equipment and facilities required to support agricultural or country food development.

In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) supported three major activities with funding under ADI. Funding was provided for the purchase of farm equipment that Yukon producers can access through the YAA equipment rental program. During this period, a no-till drill, a reversible plough and a truck mounted sprayer were purchased. The YAA contracts with individual producers who are responsible for equipment rental, maintenance, repair and storage.

Five Yukon communities accessed funding under this initiative to develop community gardens. Individuals accessing the ADI during this period used funding for feed storage facilities, retrofitting refrigeration for meat storage and investigating the feasibility of a local hatchery.

Diversification and Value-Added Initiative (DVAI)

This initiative is available to individual Yukon producers who want to diversify their operations to take advantage of market opportunities that will increase profitability on the farm. The program also provides assistance to process or develop products that add value to primary agricultural products. The program encourages partnerships and alliances that improve the competitiveness and commercialization of the agri-foods sector. Four industry projects were supported by the DVAI in 2010, 2011 and 2012, including a vegetable processing line, vegetable dehydration research and product development and an inspected on-farm meat processing facility.

Business Planning and Advisory Initiative

The objective of this initiative is to provide assistance for individuals, farm groups, cooperatives and non-profit organizations to access consultant services to review past records and financial situations, discuss objectives and help determine current options in meeting profitability goals. The initiative gives applicants up to three days of consultant services and results in each applicant receiving a business profile, a statement of assets and liabilities, a farm business ratio analysis, an income and expenses statement from the previous two years, projections and other information related to the applicant's business. One Yukon producer completed this program in 2012.

Table14. Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities, 2010, 2011 and 2012

Program	Number of Projects	Growing Forward Funding
Market Development Initiative	14	$102,452
Agricultural Development Initiative	21	$154,014
Diversification and Value-Added Initiative	4	$55,204
Business Planning and Advisory Initiative	1	$8665
Total	**40**	**$320,335**

Reducing Business Risk

During 2010, 2011 and 2012, Yukon producers had access to a suite of Business Risk Management programs delivered through Growing Forward. These programs are designed to help producers move beyond crisis management to long-term profitability and competitiveness. The risk management programs most commonly accessed by Yukon producers are AgriInvest, AgriStability, and the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

AgriInvest

This program is designed as a producer savings account to help producers protect their margin from small declines. AgriInvest replaces the coverage for margin declines of less than 15%, which was previously covered by the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. Each year, producers make a deposit into an AgriInvest account and receive a matching government contribution.

Yukon currently has seven people enrolled in AgriInvest. Matching government AgriInvest deposits in 2010 were $2,823 and in 2011 were $3,178. Figures for 2012 were not available at the time of writing. Total matching government deposits to Yukon producers from the time the program began in 2007 to the end of 2011 were $15,609.

AgriStability

This income stabilization program, together with AgriInvest, replaces the coverage previously provided by the CAIS program.

AgriStability is based on program and reference margins. A program margin is defined as allowable income minus allowable expenses in a given year, with adjustments for changes in receivables, payables and inventory. These adjustments are based on information submitted on the AgriStability harmonized form. A reference margin is defined as the average program margin for three of the past five years, with the lowest and highest margins being dropped from the calculation.

Recipients receive a payment when the current year program margin falls below 85% of the reference margin.

There were no AgriStability payments to Yukon producers in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Total program payments by governments to Yukon producers from the time the program began in 2003 to the end of 2012 were $159,853.

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

This program was implemented late in 2007 to deal with damage caused by elk entering improved pastures and foraging on seeded crops, and to lessen concerns regarding disease transmission when wildlife mixes with livestock. Until the winter of 2006-2007, individual elk and small groups of deer occasionally grazed in farmers' fields, usually during fall and winter. However, in the winter of 2006-2007, a large group of elk remained on farmer's fields until April 2007 causing significant losses.

Wildlife damage to fences, forage crops and seeded pastures varies significantly from year to year, usually depending on the severity of winter weather conditions. Claims for wildlife damage caused by elk peaked in 2009 and have declined since that time. Fewer claims for wildlife damage is a result of favourable winter weather, Growing Forward Funding for best management practices, preventative measures employed by farmers and regulatory changes that permit licensed elk hunting.

Table 15. Wildlife Damage Compensation paid in 2010, 2011 and 2012

Year	Number of claims	Amount Paid
2010	4	$8,476.80
2011	3	$5,380.00
2012	0	0

Agricultural Industry Committees and Associations

In order to promote economically viable and environmentally sustainable agriculture in Yukon, the Agriculture Branch cooperates with industry associations, agricultural committees, private individuals and other government agencies. Following is a brief description of associations and committees that encourage and support Yukon agriculture.

Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC)

This committee, which is made up of appointed industry members, meets regularly with the Director of Agriculture and other Agriculture Branch staff to discuss agricultural issues. The committee advises government on agricultural policies and programs and the development and management of the Yukon agricultural industry. Industry groups that participate in AIAC meetings are the Yukon Agricultural Association, Growers of Organic Food Yukon, Fireweed Community Market Society, Game Growers Association and Yukon Young Farmers Group.

Yukon Agricultural Association

"If you ate today, thank a farmer."

The Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) was incorporated as a non-profit society on May 24, 1974, for the purpose of fostering and promoting Yukon's agricultural industry. The Association works closely with producers, government and other interested groups to develop policies and pursue goals supportive of agriculture in Yukon. The YAA office is in Whitehorse, and its membership comes from across Yukon. Highlights of the past three years include: administering Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) funding, hosting public information events on farming issues, renting farm machinery to producers, sending representatives to national and international agricultural conferences, supporting the inception of Yukon Young Farmers (YYF) group and leasing land on the Mayo Road from Yukon government.

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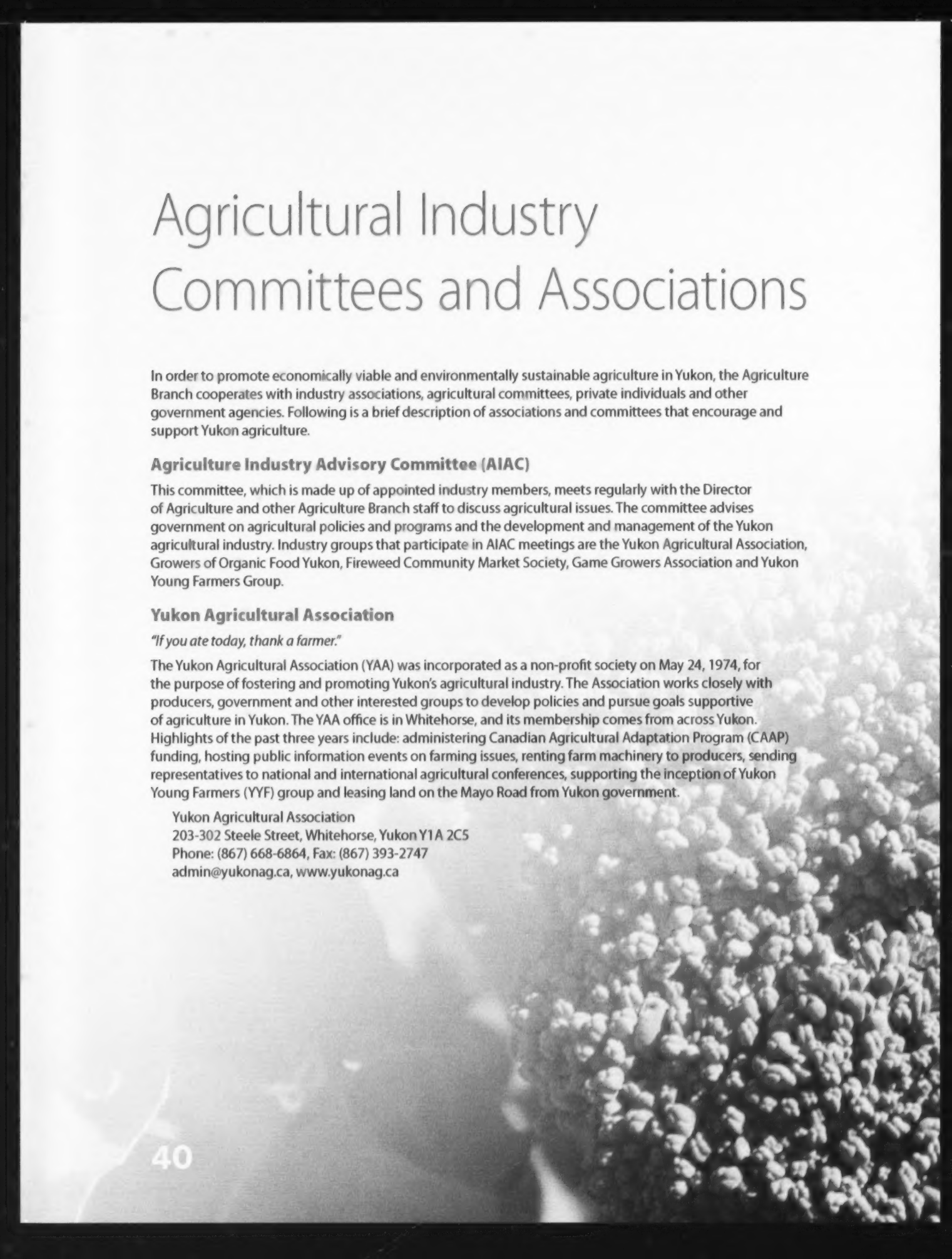

Yukon Game Growers Association

The Yukon Game Growers Association supports and promotes the game farming industry in Yukon. There are four active elk farms in Yukon. Some Yukon elk farmers are members of the Alberta Elk Commission, which is a regional contact for the Canadian Cervid Alliance, a national group that advances, improves and protects the progression of Canada's cervid industry. Yukon Game Growers Association members participate in Yukon's agricultural industry group, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee.

Yukon is well-known for quality elk genetics, and in the past, Yukon elk farmers relied on marketing their animals as breed stock. However, due to international and national events outside of Yukon's control, markets for live game-farmed animals have diminished. Proposed legislation changes in other jurisdictions with regard to hunt farms might increase national demand for live elk.

The international market for velvet antler, which had declined in previous years, appears to be recovering. International prices and demand for velvet antler were higher in 2011 than in the past few years. There is also local demand for velvet antler product, which is sold at Yukon health food stores and pet stores.

Yukon game farmers have turned to local meat sales to keep their operations afloat and to help offset feed costs. There is a strong local market for game-farmed elk meat because many customers appreciate quality game meat that is low in fat, low in cholesterol and high in protein. Elk meat is largely sold through farm gate sales. Most Yukon elk producers have reduced their herd size through meat sales.

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Fireweed Community Market Society

"It's about more than good food."

The Fireweed Community Market Society, established in 2005, hosts a weekly Outdoor Summer Market in Whitehorse Shipyards Park from mid-May to mid-September, the 12 Days of Christmas Market in downtown Whitehorse, as well as the Yukon Made Store, a year-round office and retail space in the Frank Slim Building in Shipyards Park. The express purpose of the group is to create "an enduring and cooperating community of people who wish to promote local production and consumption." The Fireweed Community Market Society has been instrumental in connecting Yukon producers with consumers.

The Yukon Made Store provides year-round sales for approximately 40 vendors, as well as library space for the Growers of Organic Food Yukon and a home for the Yukon Food Processors Association computer and Genesis database used to create nutrition facts panels for local food processors.

The Outdoor Summer Market, held on Thursdays, has seen a steady increase in the number of vendors with an excellent showing of hot food vendors as well as farmers, artists and craftspeople. In 2012, over 85 market vendors participated throughout the 18 weeks of the summer market. There has also been an increase in the presence of non-profit organizations participating in the markets. Society members work cooperatively and assist new vendors to build and improve relationships between vendors and consumers. The response to the market has been overwhelmingly good from both vendors and consumers.

The 12 Days of Christmas Market, at the end of Main Street in the Old Fire Hall, is hugely popular during December. Almost 90% of sales from this market go directly into vendor's pockets because costs are kept low by using volunteer workers.

In 2012, the Fireweed Community Market Society, whose membership consists of approximately 170 local food producers, artisans and prepared-food vendors, focused on improving services already offered. The Society continued promoting local production through support for its members and participation in committee work, such as the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and at the North of 60° Agriculture Conference. Society members developed and offered workshops throughout the Outdoor Summer Market and the 12 Days of Christmas Market and through partnership with Yukon College. Market members made local products available and promoted local food production at the Epicurious Gourmet Food Festival and the Go Media Event held in Whitehorse during the summer of 2012.

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Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY)

MISSION: Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY), a Yukon society, promotes organic practices and provides support, education and advocacy about organic growing and processing.

Growers of Organic Food Yukon, (GoOFY) is a Yukon Society, is a member of Canadian Organic Growers (COG) and has a diverse membership including certified organic producers, non-certified producers, educators and consumers. The membership shares the vision for sustainable, local and organic production, ensuring the protection of the environment and the health of people in this bio-region. GoOFY was formed in January of 2003 and was a chapter of COG until 2012, when it became a Yukon Society. The society was formed to enable farmers and gardeners interested in growing organically to share information and resources.

Members of GoOFY are active and share their expertise in the Fireweed Community Market Society, Yukon Agricultural Association, GE Free Yukon, Canadian Biotechnology Network, Food Secure Canada, Poultry Growers Group, Pot Luck Food Co-op, Slow Food Whitehorse and the Northern Food Network. Members participate on various industry committees, such as the Growing Forward Project Evaluation Committee, and the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee. Growers of Organic Food Yukon has a permanent member and one alternate on the board of the Organic Federation of Canada.

GoOFY manages an experimental greenhouse at Yukon College for testing new technologies for year-round growing using organic methods. Members routinely teach courses in food production and processing at the college. Member farms are also involved with education through Yukon schools as well. GoOFY has hosted speakers and produced several events to promote and educate about organic and local production.

There are currently sixteen members (individuals and farms). Five member farms are certified organic. The certifying body for these farms is the Pacific Agricultural Certification Society (PACS), and all farms certified by PACS are members of the Certified Organic Associations of BC. As of June 30, 2009, all the certifying bodies use the Canadian Organic Standards.

GoOFY member farms raise a variety of livestock, poultry, hay, vegetables, herbs and bedding plants. Several members are part of Yukon Food Processors Association and produce processed products for sale in local stores and at the Fireweed Community Market. Three farmers process fibre from sheep, goats and alpaca into garments and yarn. Hides are also tanned and sold.

Certified organic meat chicken, eggs and turkeys are sold at the farm gate. Grass-fed beef, goat, lamb, rabbit and pastured pork are also sold by members at the farm gate. Goat cheese produced in Yukon's only certified cheese kitchen is sold at the Fireweed Market, at Alpine Bakery and to local caterers for special events. Two farms are producing certified organic grass hay.

GoOFY members sell vegetables to local stores, at the Fireweed Community Market and through Community Supported Agriculture and by u-pick.

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Yukon Food Processors Association

The Yukon Food Processors Association, a non-profit organization, was formed October 15, 2006. Its membership represents all segments of the food and beverage industry, including growers, processors, retailers and service suppliers.

www.processors.yukonfood.com

Yukon Young Farmers

A Yukon chapter of the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum (CYFF) was formed as a sub-committee of the Yukon Agricultural Association on April 6, 2011, to bring together young and new farmers between the ages of 18 and 45.

The vision statement for Yukon Young Farmers is to encourage and empower young farmers and to create networks to foster sharing, education and help amongst young farm families.

The YYF has about 30 members in different stages of their agricultural development. The organization aims to bring new people into the industry and support those currently involved; to provide needed tools like financial planning advice, access to available agricultural funding and networking opportunities; and to assist young/new farmers to succeed.

The YYF met several times in the winter of 2011/12 and also sent eight delegates to the CYFF AGM 'Energizing Our Members' in Halifax in February 2012. Attendees felt this was very successful and a worthwhile learning opportunity for Yukon's young farmers. YYF has embarked on workshops (including farm best management practices) and socials over the 2012/13 winter and will send four delegates to the CYFF AGM 'Inspiring Innovation' in Ottawa March 2013. In providing national and territory-wide networking and professional development support to the young farmer community, the YYF gives young farmers an opportunity to share and hear from their peers while learning from experts. This group is building momentum, looking to expand its membership in the communities and working to promote Yukon agriculture through public outreach.

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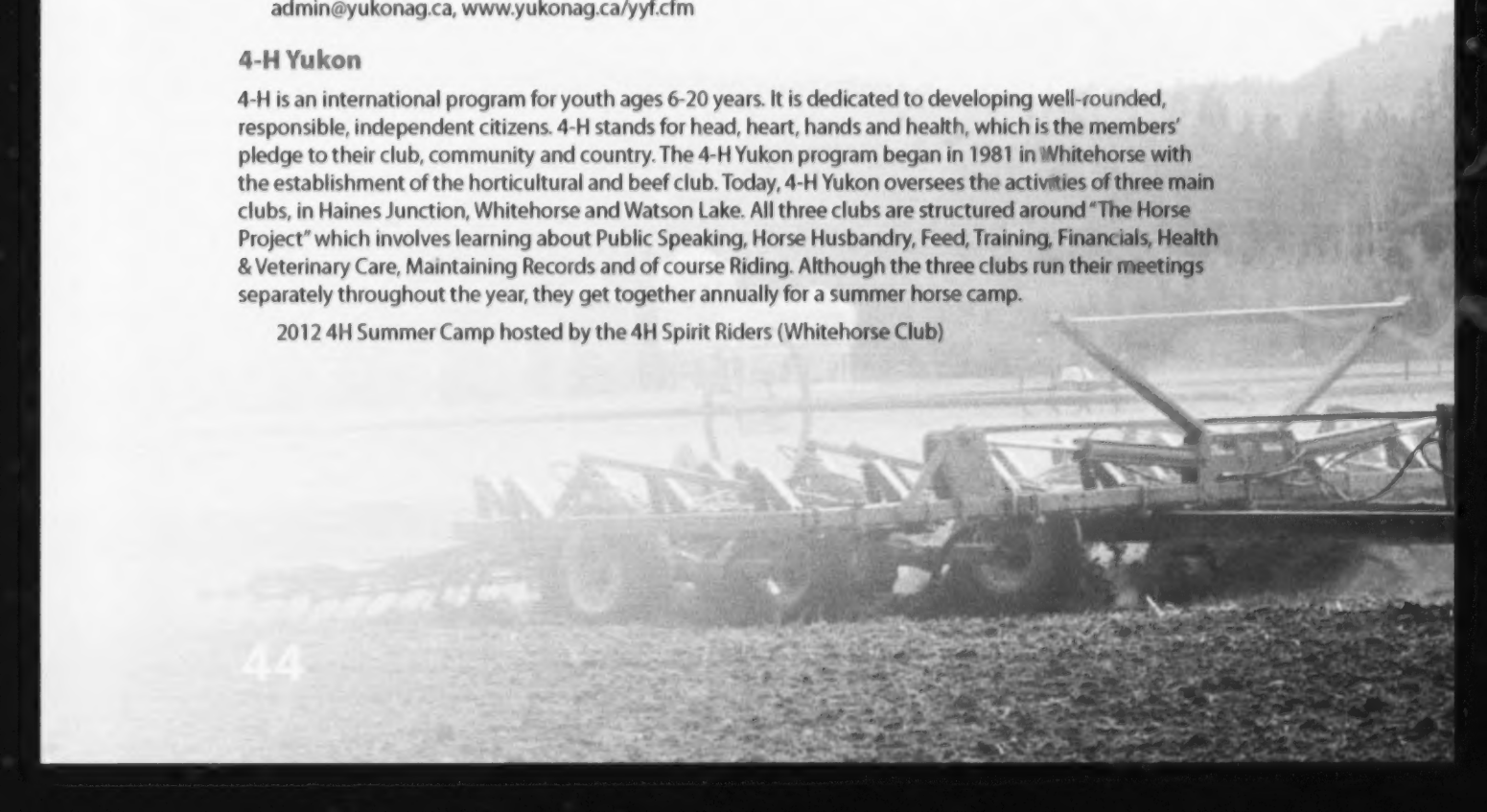
4-H Yukon

4-H is an international program for youth ages 6-20 years. It is dedicated to developing well-rounded, responsible, independent citizens. 4-H stands for head, heart, hands and health, which is the members' pledge to their club, community and country. The 4-H Yukon program began in 1981 in Whitehorse with the establishment of the horticultural and beef club. Today, 4-H Yukon oversees the activities of three main clubs, in Haines Junction, Whitehorse and Watson Lake. All three clubs are structured around "The Horse Project" which involves learning about Public Speaking, Horse Husbandry, Feed, Training, Financials, Health & Veterinary Care, Maintaining Records and of course Riding. Although the three clubs run their meetings separately throughout the year, they get together annually for a summer horse camp.

2012 4H Summer Camp hosted by the 4H Spirit Riders (Whitehorse Club)



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Agriculture Branch, Department of Energy, Mines & Resources: **www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca**

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Yukon Food Processors Association: **www.processors.yukonfood.com**

Yukon Agricultural Association: **www.yukonag.ca**

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